

ON (AFP) — A  
branch of England  
day protested at the  
"cohabitation" of  
Elizabeth II and  
son, Prince Edward  
his girlfriend Sophie  
at Buckingham  
in an article for the  
Sunday newspaper  
shepherd of York  
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Trump is out at  
Hotel's boss Bu  
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Waleed bin Talal  
Acid said last  
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The deal was  
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## Arab League urges end of sanctions on Libya

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab League leader Esmat Abdel Meguid said Monday that a report possibly linking the 1988 Lockerbie bombing to Palestinians showed that there was little evidence against Libya in the case. The Guardian newspaper in London published excerpts from a document Saturday showing the U.S. State Department was warned that Palestinians were planning an attack on a PanAm airliner three weeks before the blast over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people on Dec. 21, 1988. "I personally think that what was published recently by the Guardian regarding a document proving the innocence of Libya is something which demonstrates once again the West's weak position towards Libya," said Mr. Abdel Meguid. He called for a lifting of U.N. economic sanctions imposed on Libya in 1992 because of its alleged links to terrorism. "The Arab League will continue to defend the Libyan point of view because we consider it has conformed to international law," he added. Two Libyans have been indicted in the United States and Britain in connection with the bombing.

# Jordan Times

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## King, Crown Prince stress that Jordan's initiative to help Bosnians motivated by pure humanitarian considerations

H.M.: Economic benefits of peace will be realised in 3-5 years  
Prince Hassan urges cooperation for development of region

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan stressed Monday that Jordan's initiative to help end the suffering of the Bosnian people is motivated by humanitarian considerations that transcend political, ethnic and religious dimensions of the conflict.

King Hussein said that the initiative, which included humanitarian assistance as well as political contacts with Muslim and world leaders to help bring the Bosnian "tragedy" to an end, embodied "Jordanians' belief in human values and the necessity of respecting human rights and dignity."

Speaking to journalists during a meeting at the residence of Prince Hassan, King Hussein reiterated his call for an effective international action to end the hostilities in former Yugoslavia.

"If things continue as they are, the world will be pushed towards more tragedies, and worse situations could develop," King Hussein said.

"His Majesty said that his effort to push for a termination of hostilities in Bosnia included contacts with Western and Arab and Muslim leaders, noting that he stressed to the ambassadors in Jordan of the five permanent members of the Security Council that the continuation of the "situation represents and insult to the world, to humanity and to human values."

The King said that Jordan will "do all that it can" to help alleviate the suffering of the Bosnian people.

"Refugee camps in (Bosnia) shook the world and brought back to memory images of the Holocaust," said Prince Hassan, who last week flew to former Yugoslavia in a joint Jordanian-Israeli relief mission to Bosnia. Prince Hassan, who said that Muslims and Jews have been victims of the aggression in



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday talk to representatives

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of the local press during a meeting at the residence of Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan warned against the escalation of hostilities in the Balkan region, adding that "all parties will lose" if the conflict is allowed to expand to other areas of the Balkans.

"We have for years urged the establishment of an international 'zakat' fund that could have been used to help Muslims all over the world," the Crown Prince said. He said all Arabs and Muslims would have been more effective in extending help to their co-religionists had this fund been set up.

Prince Hassan spoke of the renewed European interest in the western Mediterranean region and urged a pooling of efforts to improve the quality of life in the area.

"We are at a point when we either enter a new era of fighting or go forward with the serious political initiative to protect the well-being and dignity of the people," the Crown Prince said.

During the meeting, the King and the Crown Prince addressed inter-Arab relations, the peace process, the economic situation in the Kingdom and efforts to realise the economic dividend of peace.

The rotation in the enclave where Serb forces overran the town of Zepa on July 25 took place over the weekend, U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko said. "Why keep high quality troops in Zepa when you have problems elsewhere," asked Mr. Ivanko.

Meanwhile, NATO is making plans to respond to the fighting around the Bosnian enclave of Bihać but may not threaten massive air strikes as it did for Gorazde, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Monday.

Alliance sources in Brussels said NATO's military committee had finalised plans for protecting Bihać town and the other remaining U.N. safe havens. NATO ambassadors were to meet Tuesday or Wednesday to give their approval.

But Mr. Perry said before talks here with British Defence Secretary Michael Portillo that the ultimatum for Bihać would not necessarily be the same as the one for Gorazde, under threat by separatist Serbs in eastern Bosnia.

## Senate endorses legislation ending boycott of Israel

### Hindawi, Arabiyyat, Shoman vote against draft law

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (the Senate) Monday endorsed a draft law that ends decades-old economic boycott of Israel, with 30 out of 33 senators present voting in favour of the legislation which was passed by the Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday.

The draft law is expected to be signed into law by His Majesty King Hussein this week. When the law goes into effect, three laws that prohibit land sale and economic dealings with Israel will be eliminated.

The ratification of the draft law, which is in line with the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty that was signed in October last year, opens the door for the endorsement of investment-related legislation that is currently being reviewed by the House's Financial Committee.

The House endorsed the legislation on dealing with Israel with a 51 to 19 majority despite attempts by the Islamist-led opposition to block it.

In Monday's Senate session, Senators opposed to the legislation described it as a "premature measure."

Senators Abdul Maguid Shoman, chairman of the Arab Bank, Thouqan Hindawi, former deputy prime minister and Abdul Latif









**DISCUSSING WATER ISSUES:** Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker Monday receives in his office visiting Sudanese Minister of Water and Irrigation Yagoub Abu Shora. The two officials reviewed cooperation in water related fields between Jordan and Sudan. Following the meeting Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irshaidat, who accompanied Mr. Abu Shora to the prime ministry, said agreement was reached in the talks for working out a new mechanism for cooperation which would update a former agreement between Khartoum and Amman. Under the new accord the two countries will exchange expertise and water related research and studies. Sudan has been seeking Jordanian expertise in searching for underground water resources (Petra photo)

## 'Israel to issue visas through embassy'

JORDANIANS WILL be able to obtain tourist visas at the Israeli Embassy in Amman as of mid-August, rather than have to wait to obtain them at the border, according to an agreement reached Sunday.

Jordanian and Israeli officials reached the agreement during a meeting called due to major bottlenecks at the Jordan River border crossing, near Kibbutz Maoz Haim, that have occurred over the past few weeks.

According to Menahem Zeligovsky, director of the border crossings for the Airports Authority, the new system is to go into effect on August 15.

Israeli tourists visiting Jordan will continue obtaining their visas to the Kingdom through their tour companies.

The meeting, held at the border crossing, was attended by senior Israeli police, customs, and airports authority officials and their Jordanian counterparts.

In addition, from September 1, the King Hussein Bridge crossing, which until now has been closed on Friday and Saturday, is to be open on those days from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

On other days, hours will be extended, and will be from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The two sides also agreed that the Jordanians are to add a second shuttle bus. There are already two Israeli shuttle buses in operation.

The Israeli authorities also undertook to set up shaded areas for the Jordanian visitors waiting to be checked, to provide 200 chairs for them, and to make hot and cold drinks available.

Meanwhile, Israelis returning from Jordan, as well as foreign tourists and Jordanians entering Israel, will all apparently have to put up with another two weeks of bottlenecks at the border crossing.

According to Makram Khoury Mahool, director of Jaffa Communications, a

company involved with trade relations with Jordan, the situation has become intolerable, with waits of six hours and more in the hot sun.

Last week, Mr. Mahool said he saw a number of people faint because of the heat. Those lining up to go through the Israeli police checkpoint had to wait in the sun and those who went to stand in the shade lost their place in line, he said.

The delay was caused, he explained, because each Jordanian entering had to be issued a visa, a procedure that takes a great deal of time.

Mr. Mahool, who has been organising groups to the Jerash Festival, also said Jordanians have continued to insist on a maximum of 300 tourists from Israel a day at the crossing, thus making it impossible for all those who want to attend the festival to do so.

*The Jerusalem Post*

## Senate endorses legislation

(Continued from page 1)

sions related to land sale and lease to foreigners," Mr. Rifa'i said. "It would be a shock to foreign investors who seek to own or rent property to learn that they should abide by a law on economic boycott of the enemy."

Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker said a special committee from the concerned departments has already been formed to study all laws related to land sale or lease to foreigners. He said that a law that tackles the issue from all its aspects will be produced for this purpose.

The new draft law will be submitted to the house for endorsement, the prime minister said.

Senator Thouqan Hindawi, who also spoke on behalf of Senators Marwan Hmoud and Qasem Obeidat, said that the issue of dual nationality holders was not tackled in the draft law. He proposed an amendment to article six of the legislation with view to ensuring more protection against land sale to Israelis who have double nationalities.

Senator Jawdat Shoul, former interior minister, countered by saying that the draft law prohibits any holder of

dual nationality from owning land in Jordan if his/her first or second nationality is Israeli. He said that even if a foreigner purchased land in Jordan and was later discovered to have dual nationality, one of which is Israeli, then the lease or sale contract will be considered null and void in accordance with the law.

"The draft law, which has been under thorough study by deputies, experts, senators and ministers, provides solid safeguards against future exploitation," said Mr. Shoul, the rapporteur of the Senate's joint financial and judiciary committee, which studied the draft law.

## Israel, PLO to narrow differences

(Continued from page 1)

have to be concluded in August if Palestinian elections were to be held this year.

Mr. Savir said he did not know how long negotiations would take but said he felt the sides were close to signing.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces on Monday dragged scores of Jewish settlers down from a disputed West Bank hilltop and destroyed their tent site there, witnesses and Israeli police said.

Witnesses said police and settlers, who are protesting against the imminent spread of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, played a cat-and-mouse game up and down the rocky hillside for most of the day.

Police pulled protesters from the hilltop, sometimes over rocks, but then let many

of them go. Some settlers climbed back up to the top of the hill and were brought down again.

"That's four times they dragged me down. I grew up in the 1950s and I know the power of civil disobedience," said Yossi Baumol from the nearby Efrat settlement.

The setting up of the tent site at Al Khader is the latest move by Jewish settlers, who oppose the Israeli government's talks with the PLO to expand self-rule in the West Bank and are trying to undermine them, saying the area is the Jews' Biblical heritage.

In recent weeks they have symbolically expanded settlements and built roads, testing a government that is committed both to handing over areas of the West Bank to the Palestinians and to ensuring the safety of 100,000 settlers who live amongst them.

## TWO FURNISHED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

The first is a 200 square metres, separate ground floor apartment, consisting of two bedrooms, guest room, sitting and dining area, glassed-in veranda, garden, and a garage. The second is a 220 square metre second floor apartment, consisting of three bedrooms, guest room, living room, glassed-in balcony. Each apartment has separate central heating, telephone, maid room, large kitchen, and deluxe furniture. Please call Tel. 665711 and 664256

# Sudanese interior minister arrives for talks on cooperative ventures

AMMAN (Petra) — Sudanese Minister of Interior Tayeb Ibrahim Kheir, who arrived here early Monday for a two-day visit opened talks with his Jordanian counterpart, Salameh Hammad, on promoting Jordanian-Sudanese cooperation in security and civil defence fields and in matters related to the work of interior ministries in both countries.

Mr. Kheir said that Sudan would like to cooperate with the Kingdom in security matters and in training personnel in civil defence and police work.

Mr. Hammad was quoted as saying that Jordan was willing to extend assistance in those areas to Sudan.

The Sudanese minister, who visited the interior ministry's information centre, was briefed on the operational system of the ministry's departments.

Mr. Kheir said that while in Jordan he aims to familiarise himself with the interior ministry's administrative systems, training programmes as well as the operations of the Public Security and Civil Defence departments for possible assimilation in Sudan.



Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad Monday escorts visiting Sudanese Minister of Interior Tayeb Ibrahim Kheir through the ministry's information centre (Petra photo)

The Sudanese official later visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and met its director, Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Adwan and senior assistants.

He was briefed on police organisation and operations in the country and PSD contributions to United Nations peacekeeping forces deployed in several regions around the world.

Mr. Kheir inspected several branches of the department and heard about procedures in dealing with traffic accidents, crimes and the training of police cadres.

# Government launches new drive to curb influx of foreign labourers

By Saad Hattar  
Agence France Press

AMMAN — With unemployment rates of up to 18.8 per cent, Jordan has launched a drive to curb the influx of foreign labourers, who already number 250,000.

Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker Tuesday set up a five-minister panel tasked with "regulating the employment of foreign labourers," especially those from Egypt and Syria.

"While we welcome any Arab national to work in the Kingdom, we also have a rather limited capacity," Minister of Labour Nader Abu Sha'ar told AFP.

"Our market is quite saturated and we can take no more," Mr. Abu Sha'ar said. Jordan's workforce is estimated at 856,000 out of a population of four million

people, according to official figures. Some 160,000 are unemployed.

Unemployment soared dramatically in the wake of the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis, which prompted the return of 350,000 Jordanian expatriates working in Kuwait and other Gulf states.

Mr. Abu Sha'ar said 42,000 labourers from Arab countries had Jordanian work permits.

Independent estimates indicate that at least another 210,000 foreigners, mostly Egyptians, are working illegally in jobs which could be filled by Jordanians.

Officials say nearly 1,000 Egyptians enter the Kingdom daily, in addition to an unknown number of Syrians.

Most of them end up flooding the labour market. Jordan has launched sev-



Nader Abu Sha'ar

eral fruitless campaigns to cut down foreign labour in the past, but the latest drive is more wide-ranging because it involves five related ministries, notably the Ministry of Interior which monitors border posts

and airports. The campaign also coincides with the introduction of a new labour code that gives priority to Jordanian manpower.

"Employers should not opt to hire foreign labourers unless in special cases with official permits," the new labour code stipulates.

"After Jordanians, Arab labourers take priority over other foreigners, provided they work in sectors short of local manpower like agriculture and construction."

But employers tend to hire Egyptians who are reputed to accept lower wages than their Jordanian counterparts and are ready to work more hours.

"The standard of wages is linked to the market mechanism, as well as to the actions of employers," Mr. Abu Sha'ar said. "The ball is now in the court of busi-

nessmen."

The minister stressed the campaign had no political motives.

"On the contrary, our bilateral protocol with Egypt bars any Egyptian from working in Jordan without a work permit," he said.

He stressed Amman would not resort to collective deportation as foreign labourers will be given a three-month grace period to adjust to regulations.

But all those caught without work permits after the deadline will be fined and immediately deported, he added.

Burdened by a foreign debt of around \$6.5 billion, Jordan introduced a five-year economic plan in Sept. 1993 which was aimed at slashing the unemployment rate to nine per cent by 1997 by creating 224,000 new jobs.

## Croats, Serbs clash

(Continued from page 1)

moved on Gorazde, one of the four remaining U.N.-declared safe areas along with Bihać, Sarajevo and Tuzla.

But NATO members such as France have insisted that Bihać was a different matter, embroiling six different groups, including Bosnian government forces, Muslim rebels, Serbs from Bosnia and Croatia, and Croats.

"Bihać is not comparable with Gorazde where the lines were clear cut," Mr. Portillo told reporters after his talks with Mr. Perry.

The British official did not specify what action NATO envisioned taking around Bihać, but said, "We all agree that Serbs should be in no doubt that we are taking all safe areas seriously."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Heat wave to last until Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Meteorology Monday said the current heat wave is expected to continue until Wednesday evening. A department spokesman told the Jordan Times that the high temperatures will be accompanied by dry, hot winds which exacerbate the conditions further. The average temperature in Jordan for this time of year is 32° C — temperatures over the next two days are expected to hit 37° C, the meteorologist said. Nighttime temperatures could be expected to drop to 22° C. In the Jordan Valley, he said, daytime highs could reach 42° C.

### More computers to be installed in schools

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education plans to install 864 additional computers in 111 of its schools around the country in the coming year. The country's public schools were equipped with 4,531 computers in 488 schools last year. The ministry is gradually fulfilling a plan to offer all 10th grade students with computer courses, according to ministry officials.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### JERASH FESTIVAL

\* Concert by Bashar and Ayman Zarqan of Syria at Artimes Steps at 9:00 p.m.

\* Play (in Arabic) entitled "The Digger and the Blind Prostitute" at Gracia Theatre at 8:00 p.m.

\* Concert by the Dio Ayad at Gracia Theatre at 9:30 p.m.

\* Performance by Jugnu Group at the Forum (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.)

\* Lucnica Folklore Group of Slovakian at the Sound and Light at 9:00 p.m.

\* Performance by Al-Andalus De Cadiz of Spain at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

\* Poetry recital by several Arab poets at Darat Al Funun, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

\* Puppet show for children entitled "The Children of the Village" at the Sound and Light Theatre at 7:45 p.m.

\* Performance by several and Light Theatre at 7:45 p.m.

\* Performance by several Jordanian groups at the Forum (6:30-9:00 p.m.)

\* Egyptian circus at the Forum at 9:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Handicrafts and souvenirs at the Amman Citadel (9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.)

\* Abstract art by Randa Qassab at the Royal Cultural Centre

\* Exhibition of Palestinian products 95 at the Universal Expo Centre, University Road.

\* Display of Palestinian heritage at the Professional Associations Complex.

\* Paintings and ceramics by Arab artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina.

\* Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Funun.

\* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

## PSD warns car rental offices to observe price regulations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Monday cautioned rent-a-car offices in Jordan to follow car rental regulations especially in cases in which young drivers and tourists are concerned.

Addressing a meeting of owners of car rental agencies, Major General Ibrahim Sarairoh, assistant to the PSD director for traffic affairs, said that some agencies have rented cars to young people for higher rates than those allowed under the regulations, and some hiked the rates when renting cars to tourists.

He also complained that some car rental establishments do not properly maintain their vehicles, and some have not returned their clients' passports when the cars are returned to the office.

According to Major General Sarairoh, these establishments are violating regulations set by the PSD.

He said a client should be asked to provide a photocopy of his/her passport and should be charged the rates stipulated in the PSD regulations. According to employees at Rawan Rent-a-Car office in Amman, Jordan has 150 car rental offices — at least 135 are concentrated in the capital.

The employees told the Jordan Times that their office charges a rental fee of JD 20 to JD 27 per day for a car, provided the client travels no more than 100 kilometres per day.

They said that some offices they know of have been charging higher rates on car rentals to young people to serve as a guarantee on possible damage.

Jordanians were only permitted to rent cars in the Kingdom after March 1991. Prior to that car rental agencies could only serve non-Jordanians.

## The Spanish Embassy in Amman

has the pleasure to announce that within the activities of the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts

THE WORLD FAMOUS FLAMENCO DANCE 26-MEMBER GROUP FROM CADIZ

"AL-ANDALUS"

will perform at the South Theatre / Jerash August 1st and 2nd 1995 at 8:30 p.m.



# Sri Lanka Tiger rebels admit 128 women cadres killed

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels said Monday 128 women, including two suicide bombers, were killed in an abortive attack on four army bases Friday and that a "traitor" had forewarned the military.

The Tigers radio, broadcasting from the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna, said 180 cadres were killed in Friday's assault in the northeast Welioya area, 128 of them women.

It made no mention of dead children seen lying in rows in pictures taken by the Defence Ministry after the fighting.

The armed forces scored their biggest victory over the Tamil Tigers in 12 years of war Friday and accused the guerrillas of sacrificing young girls and boys in the front line.

The army says the bodies of 182 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fighters were recovered but that the toll would rise. State radio said almost 500 Tigers had been killed, after bodies strewn along the beaches had been counted.

Only one home guard and one soldier were killed in raids on which they had received a tip-off, the military said.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said Saturday he was appalled at the number of children killed in the enemy front lines.

"There were young girls and boys in large numbers,"

he told Reuters. "There is no respect of human life on their side. We can't sacrifice human lives like that."

Tiger radio said a traitor had tipped off the military, which is why they were ready. It said two women suicide bombers had destroyed two artillery pieces at Janakapura, which it described as the armed forces' most deadly weapon.

Some 3,000 Tigers were involved in the attack on the military detachments at Kokilai, Janakapura, Jayasinghepura and Kokkuduvai, military sources said.

Tigers attacked in the same area Monday, at Athawetunuwewa, killing one soldier and wounding three, the military said.

On Sunday, troops ambushed and killed five Tigers south of the Elephant Pass base on the northern Jaffna lagoon. One soldier was wounded.

The Tigers launched their raids Friday as the armed forces prepared to resume their Operation Leap Forward offensive in the LTTE's Jaffna peninsula stronghold, where they say they have captured 78 square kilometres of rebel territory.

The Tigers retaliated Sunday by blowing up a popular brigadier in a landmine. He was promoted posthumously to lieutenant general.

The military said 10 Tigers and one soldier were killed Saturday when troops moved out of their newly captured area south of Alveddi and attacked a group of LTTE fighters.

Tiger Radio said only three LTTE members were killed and that the rebels had stopped the army advance.

Jaffna Radio maintained silence about the raids over the weekend, but residents travelling from the north said the town of Ommantai was in mourning, with black flags flying the streets and all the shops closed.

The Tigers have been fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east in a war which the government says more than 50,000 people have been killed since 1983.

Meanwhile a radical Sinhala group Monday called for a referendum on political proposals to end Sri Lanka's civil war and described the government's peace package as a "giant step" towards separation.

The Sinhalese People's Liberation Front, or JVP, which has led two unsuccessful insurrections said concessions to minority Tamils envisaged by the government amounted to a betrayal of the nation.

"The government is preparing to unveil a package that will pave the way to disintegrate the country. This so called settlement to the ethnic conflict is a giant step towards the creation of Eelam, a separate Tamil state," the JVP said.

Any proposals must go to a referendum, the JVP said in a statement that put the group with other extremist Sinhalese and Tamils who oppose the government plan.

The statement came as President Chandrika Kumaratunga scheduled meetings with Tamil legislators and the main opposition United National Party (UNP) to discuss a plan to end 23 years of fighting which has claimed over 50,000 lives.

In 1987, the JVP led street protests against a peace plan that called for the creation of provincial councils and granted limited autonomy in Tamils. Nearly 100 people died in protests in August 1987.

The plan eventually fell with the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) abrogating an agreement and returning to their guerrilla war.

Mrs. Kumaratunga's latest package, leaked to the press last week, envisages a federal set up with extensive legislative powers to eight regions. It effectively gives Tamils the right to determine their affairs.

The country's influential Buddhist clergy has already asked President Kumaratunga to delay unveiling the proposals until the LTTE has been defeated.

Mrs. Kumaratunga met Buddhist leaders at the weekend to discuss the issue but details of the meeting were not known. Officials said she guaranteed the sovereignty of the state and the special status accorded to Buddhism.

## German SPD cools internal feud

BONN (R) — German opposition leader Rudolf Scharping won a break from constant sniping within his Social Democratic Party (SPD) Monday when his arch-rival said he would not challenge for the SPD leadership this year.

"I have always said I am not competing against anyone, especially not Rudolf Scharping," Lower Saxony State Premier Gerhard Schröder told German radio, playing down speculation he would seek the SPD

leadership at a party conference in November.

But he dodged questions about whether he wanted to be the party's candidate for chancellor when the SPD tries to unseat Helmut Kohl in national elections in 1998.

There was no point deciding so far in advance who should lead the SPD ticket, he said.

Mr. Scharping has faced open revolt from some conservative SPD members who feel his consensus-building style lacks teeth. Slumping in

## Report: U.K. aware of arms sales to Iraq

LONDON (AFP) — The British government was fully aware of embargo-busting arms sales made to Iraq in 1989 by a British company, a former senior Foreign Office told the Daily Telegraph Monday.

Mark Higson, who quit the Foreign Office in 1990, said confidential documents reported that the British firm Ordtech was supplying military equipment to Iraq and was supplying the British secret services with information on Iraq by return.

Information was known to me and to a number of other people very early on that Ordtech was supplying things to Iraq via Jordan and

giving us information about it," Mr. Higson told the Telegraph.

"I would then send these reports to ministers' private offices and other senior officials," he said.

Four senior figures at Ordtech were convicted in 1992 for having delivered military equipment to Baghdad, including components of pieces of heavy artillery.

The four men appealed the ruling and in order to prepare their defence were authorised by the Court of Appeal last week to have access to documents whose publication the government banned in June.

The appeal is expected to be heard in October.

Mr. Higson, who ran the British Office Iraq desk in 1989, said he had seen documents mentioning Ordtech as a "helper" M16, the British overseas secret services section, providing information on the arming of Iraq.

Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Months later, U.S. and allied forces forced the Iraqi forces back.

Several members of the current government have been dogged for over two years by so-called "Iraqgate" reports that senior government figures knew about covert arms sales to Iraq.

A judicial report on the arms sales is due to be published later this year.

## Italian mafia 'plotted to kill 2 judges'

PALERMO, Sicily (AFP) — Sicilian mafia bosses planned to kill two anti-mafia judges in a car bomb outside Palermo's main court, judicial sources said here Monday.

The targets were Palermo state prosecutor Giancarlo Caselli and magistrate Roberto Scarpinato, both involved in the case against former Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti for alleged mafia links.

Four people were arrested eight days ago after a stolen car and about 100 kilograms of TNT explosive, of which eight kilograms had been made into a bomb, were discovered in Palermo.

The charge would have been big enough to blow up an entire building, Palermo police chief Arnaldo La Barbera said at the time.

Details of the assassination plot were revealed by two separate sources, one a reliable informant who said that the mafia wanted to blow up a hooby-trapped ambulance just in front of the court.

The other source was mafia turncoat Pasquale Di Filippo who claimed Leoluca Bagarella, a brother-in-law of jailed Cosa Nostra (Sicilian Mafia) boss Salvatore "Totò" Riina, wanted to get rid of the two judges.

Mr. Di Filippo's information had already led to Mr. Bagarella's arrest in Palermo on June 24.

Police also found notes relating to the payment of 300 million lire (\$187,000) for 100 kilograms of explosive in the home of Mr. Bagarella

aided Antonino Mangano.

The revelations led a public safety committee in Palermo to beef up security around the court.

"We are getting lots of information about possible attacks. We do not want to blow this information out of proportion but we also do not want to underestimate it," Palermo Prefect Achille Serra said. "That's why we decided to increase security."

Mr. Caselli, Palermo's chief prosecutor since January 1993, has given new life to anti-mafia inquiries which struggled to stay afloat after the assassination three years ago of top Judge Giovanni Falcone.

Both he and Mr. Scarpinato worked on building up the dossier against Mr. Andreotti, who is accused of helping Cosa Nostra bosses, notably in getting the Supreme Court of Appeal to overturn sentences imposed on them.

Mr. Scarpinato will also be one of the prosecutors in the trial of the former Christian Democrat leader which is due to start on Sept. 26.

In related developments Monday, Bruno Contrada, a former police official and key agent for the Italian Secret Service, was freed Monday for health reasons after two and a half years in preventive custody, judicial sources.

His attorneys had asked that their client, currently on trial for allegedly colluding with the mafia, be freed for health reasons and argued that by allowing him to return home he posed no risk to the investigation against him.

Mr. Contrada during a court hearing this spring fell ill and had to be rushed to hospital, where he later tried to commit suicide.

Mr. Contrada, whose trial is one of the biggest in the run-up to Mr. Andreotti's trial in September, has repeatedly claimed his innocence and said he was being framed by mafia members seeking to avenge his police work.

He is accused of helping mafia bosses, particularly Mr. Riina, to escape police detection.

On Sunday a right-wing group called the Federation of Young Liberals appealed to Amnesty International to take up his case.

The affair has rekindled the debate over the excessive length of pre-trial detention in Italy, just as a law limiting this type of measure reaches its final stage before being adopted by parliament.

Meanwhile in Trieste, Italian magistrates were Monday questioning a man of North African origin who was arrested at the weekend carrying a manual that included coded information about making bombs, judicial officials said.

The man, whose name and nationality were not released by police, was arrested Saturday in Trieste after he entered Italy from Slovenia, the former Yugoslavia republic which borders the northeastern city, the officials said.

He was being questioned about his identity papers and about the manual, the officials said.

## Texas gunman kills 2 children, wounds 5

FOR WORTH, Texas (R) — A gunman shot and killed two children and wounded five other people at a Fort Worth apartment complex including a police officer before surrendering to authorities, police said Monday.

The incident began Sunday morning when authorities received a report of shots being fired at the apartment complex, a police officer said.

Three officers responded to the call, and the gunman began firing shots out of his apartment, apparently at police, the officer said.

As police officer Angela Amjay passed by the gunman's apartment, he shot her, hitting her in the shoulder and abdomen, he said.

Other officers entered the apartment, found the gunman and ordered him to put his weapon down. He complied and was arrested, the officer said.

Inside the apartment, officers found a dead boy and girl, ages six and eight, as well as four wounded: A two-year-old girl, the children's 28-year-old mother, a security guard and another apartment complex resident, a man.

The wounded were taken to hospital.



Registered Nurse Bayani Leguspi checks the blood pressure of Chicago resident Joseph Filipowski Jr. at a cooling centre in Chicago. In the wake of more than 500 heat-related deaths two weeks ago, Chicago declared a heat emergency as the heat index climbed above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (about 38 degrees Celsius) (AFP photo)

## Chicago declares heat emergency

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Chicago declared a "heat emergency" over the weekend as temperatures soared into the mid-90s (35 degrees Centigrade), but there were no immediate reports of new deaths in this mid-western U.S. city still recovering from a deadly heat wave.

Some 546 deaths have been blamed on the recent hellish temperatures in Chicago, which extended its heat emergency into Monday amid continued forecasts of hot and sticky weather.

Nationwide, officials reported the deaths of 845 people over the past few weeks.

Emergency measures in Chicago have included the opening to the public of eight centres which provided round-the-clock air-conditioning for the poorest who are otherwise unable to escape the heat and high humidity which has plagued much of the eastern United States for the past two weeks.

People were also allowed into some 60 other city buildings during the heat of the day.

In Washington, where veterans Saturday commemorated the Korean War, some 500 people had to be treated for heat exhaustion.

Meanwhile, a tropical storm brought relief from the heat to the coast of Texas, in the south, Sunday, but heavy rainfalls caused some flooding to previously parched areas.

## S. Africa arrests 6,000 in crime blitz

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South African police said Monday they had arrested more than 6,000 suspected criminals in a 10-day long crime prevention operation around the commercial capital Johannesburg.

The operation had netted 6,011 suspects by Monday, Lieutenant Jan Combrinck told Reuters.

"Police set up 357 roadblocks and 21,363 vehicles were searched... as part of the community safety plan," he said.

Sixteen suspects had been arrested for murder and 20 for attempted murder.

He said among the arrests were 406 for theft, 169 for housebreaking, 128 for motor vehicle theft or attempted theft and 117 for rape.

"Twenty-two were arrested for hijackings. We had great success here, with 18 of them arrested just over the weekend," he said.

Many of the suspects were caught at roadblocks set up around Johannesburg, one of the cities hardest hit by a wave of violent crime in which an average of 50 people were murdered every day in 1994.

Meanwhile, at least 36 people were killed in criminal and political violence in volatile KwaZulu-Natal province at the weekend, police said in a statement Monday.

Among the incidents reported by police Monday, was an attack Saturday by an armed group of around 200 people on a house in Isipingo, south of this KwaZulu-Natal port city, in which three people were killed.

## 87 Bangladeshi MP seats declared vacant

DHAKA (AFP) — The seats of 87 opposition members of parliament have been declared vacant and another 55 challenged due to their 16-month boycott of the house to force a general election, a parliament source said Monday.

The action followed a Supreme Court ruling declaring 147 opposition seats vacant because their holders violated a law requiring permission for absences of over 90 days.

The speaker's decision was to be published in the parliamentary gazette Monday, and the Election Commission said it would organise by-elections for the vacant seats.

"We'll be meeting in the next couple of days to chart our course of action," said a leader of the main opposition Awami League, whose chief lost her seat.

Letters have been sent to 55 other opposition lawmakers who had signed the attendance register in parliament, asking them to clarify whether they were really present in the main chamber during the boycott, the source said.

Those 55 seats are likely to be declared vacant soon, the source said.

Among those who lost their seats were Sheikh Hasi-na Wajed, chief of the Awami League; Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, acting chief of the Jatiya Party; and Moulana Matiu Rahman Nizami, leader of the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islamic Party.

Another five lawmakers were allowed to continue as MPs because they were either in jail or had changed sides to support the government.

One of those who kept their seats was the permanent head of the Jatiya Party, deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who is serving a 13-year jail term for graft and faces murder charges as well.

In all, 147 MPs walked out of the parliament in March 1994 to back calls for the resignation of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and the dissolution of the 330-member house, elected in 1991.

They complained that Mrs. Zia's government did not allow free elections and de-

## Parents in court bid for baby euthanasia

LONDON (R) — The parents of a brain-damaged baby boy Monday sought to end his suffering and let him die. Fiona and Con Creedon went to the English High Court asking permission to withdraw artificial feeding for their 22-month-old son Thomas, brain-damaged in the womb and now blind and deaf. "Fiona and I love Thomas beyond measure and we would not seek this action if we did not believe it was best for him," Con Creedon said before launching the emotion-charged bid.

"It is a desperately hard situation for any caring parent to be in," he told reporters. Thomas cries inconsolably, has constant fits and is fed through a hole in his stomach. He cannot control his limbs. In what could be a major test case for euthanasia in Britain, his parents say that force feeding the baby is barbaric and should be ended. In a landmark case in 1993, Tony Bland, was allowed to die three years after being left brain dead in a crowd crush at an English soccer stadium.

## Parents refuse to take son back from police

CAIRO (AFP) — Police in a Cairo slum have been left with a nine-year-old boy on their hands after his divorced parents who threw him out refused to take him back, the daily Al Akhbar reported Monday. Police brought Mohammed Said Hamam into protective custody after finding him asleep in a street where he had lived alone for two months in the Shubra El Khelma neighbourhood of the Egyptian capital. The boy told police he had been thrown out by his stepmother to prevent his father, a worker in a wood factory, from beating him. Hamam then fled to his mother, who also turned him out after her husband refused to give him a home. Police contacted both parents but each refused to take back the child. Hamam will remain with police until they can find someone to take care of him, the paper said.

## Night at the opera ends with a bang

MACERATA, Italy (R) — The opening night of the opera Tosca ended with a bang at a summer festival in eastern Italy when the hero was shot in the foot during the execution scene. Italian tenor Fabio Armiliato, playing the painter Mario Cavaraddosi, sat on the stage, rubbing his left foot and was taken away on a stretcher. Organisers said, Armiliato was treated in hospital for cuts and bruises. Festival staff said he may have been hit by flying debris from a blank fired from a rifle in the third-act execution scene.

## Waterworld tops U.S. boxoffice

LOS ANGELES (R) — Waterworld Universal Pictures' \$200 million gamble surged to the top of the box office charts Sunday, but the film's debut was less spectacular than other blockbuster films this summer. According to industry estimates compiled by Exhibitor Relations Inc., a Hollywood firm that tracks box office results, Waterworld grossed about \$21.6 million over the Friday to Sunday period, easily beating the number two entry, The Net. Box office figures are based on actual ticket sales for Friday and Saturday and estimated results for Sunday. However, experts said the Waterworld opening was at the low end of analysts' estimates and well below the openings of other blockbuster films this summer. Apollo 13, another Universal film, pulled in almost \$26 million in its opening weekend in early July while Batman Forever, the summer's most successful film thus far, sold \$52.8 million in tickets in its opening weekend. Universal spokesman Alan Sutton said Waterworld, which deals with life on Earth after the planet has been covered in water because of the polar ice caps melting, was still among the biggest box office openings this summer. Waterworld, starring Kevin Costner, has attracted intense publicity because of its record-setting production costs, elaborate stunts and a public feud between Costner and the film's director Kevin Reynolds.

Members of Anatoly Kul's Cooperation conference

## Moscow

GROZNY. — Russian rebel Chechen rebels under an agreement of six Russian soldiers killed in Moscow. In a decree of the Chechen president Boris Yeltsin, the guerrillas have been constituted. The Russian troops away region's points and were fired on sniper to times. The incident, the fragility of the accord reached after weeks of the same readied swap prisoners.

## Decisive

WASHINGTON President Harry Truman's decision to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima was a decisive moment in the war. He authorized the use of the bomb on Japan in the morning of August 6, 1945. No hesitation. About the consequences. "Let's there about it," Mr. Truman's side opposed using cause he felt Japan should be given a chance to surrender. "It gave it (Hiroshima) some of his hat on," says retired arms tary and Truman think it's safe to say the bomb may have been a Japanese face surrender." He pointed out a small gathering Truman's decision by the U.S. National Commission, the first bomb on Hiroshima cabinet was still whole did not know atom bomb because they did not understand it. The Nizze said of the left 140,000 dea



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Members of Russian delegation (from left) Arkady Volsky, Anatoly Kulikov, Vyacheslav Mikhailov listen while a spokesman for OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) makes a statement at a press conference in the yard of the OSCE mission. The two wearing army uniform on right are Chechen delegates Aslan Maskhadov (right) and Usman Ismayev (second from right). The press conference followed the signing of Russian-Chechen military accords (AFP photo)

## Moscow: Military accord holds with Chechens

GROZNY, Russia (Agencies) — Russian officials and rebel Chechens Monday prepared an exchange of prisoners under a new military agreement despite shooting incidents overnight in which six Russian soldiers were reported killed.

In Moscow, the Constitutional Court, after several weeks of deliberation, ruled that a decree issued by President Boris Yeltsin last December to disarm Chechen guerrillas had been "absolutely constitutional."

The 19-member court also ruled that a separate government decree also of Dec. 9, which gave the green light for troops to go into Chechnya, "generally corresponds to the constitution."

Russian troops in the break-away region said army checkpoints and command posts were fired on by Chechen sniper to times in the regional capital Grozny despite the deal, signed Sunday, aimed at ending seven months of conflict.

Interfax News Agency said five servicemen were killed in a single incident in which an army column was ambushed. A sixth soldier was killed and 20 others were wounded in other attacks in the past 24 hours.

The incidents highlighted the fragility of the military accord reached in Grozny after weeks of bargaining.

But the two sides all the same readied themselves to swap prisoners seized since

Russian troops swept into the region to end a drive for independence.

Sandor Meszaros, representative of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Grozny, said the prisoner exchange had been originally set for Monday but had been delayed "for technical reasons."

He told ITAR-TASS news agency that it would now take place Tuesday or Wednesday.

Delegates to the peace talks Sunday hailed the military agreement as a breakthrough which should lead to a permanent solution to the conflict, which has cost thousands of lives.

But the ink was barely dry on the document — the precise contents of which were kept secret — when Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev was reported to have branded it invalid.

His comments, made by telephone to a reporter from the U.S. State Department-funded Radio Liberty, a Russian-language station, threw the hard-won agreement into doubt.

But in Moscow Russian officials Monday said the agreement still stood despite Mr. Dudayev's reported rejection of it.

Arkady Volsky, a senior member of the Russian delegation at the peace talks, held up a letter at a Moscow news conference in which he said Mr. Dudayev had fully empowered his negotiators to

conclude a military agreement on Chechnya's behalf.

The letter, signed by Mr. Dudayev, was sent before the agreement was reached but the main condition the separatist leader had set was that all members of the Chechen delegation signed the accord.

"All members signed without exception," Mr. Volsky said.

Vyacheslav Mikhailov, the chief Russian negotiator, said the deal was sure to help peace moves, "I think in any case, whatever happens, the agreement is signed and has been signed by people who have influence and are able to exert influence," he told the same news conference.

The agreement also left unresolved the question of Chechnya's political status. The Chechen rebels want full independence but Moscow has ruled this out and says the status issue can be discussed only after elections are held in Chechnya.

Mr. Dudayev, elected president of Chechnya in 1991, unilaterally declared independence from the Russian Federation.

The rebels, who have fiercely resisted since Moscow poured troops into the region in December, fought in his name and the delegates to the peace talks were sent with his authority.

The Radio Liberty correspondent said Mr. Dudayev had alleged the Russian exerted pressure on his representatives. But the chief Chechen delegate, Usman

Ismayev, appeared relaxed when he spoke to reporters Sunday.

Mr. Dudayev's comments could be a move to appease hardline supporters who want to avenge the deaths of comrades-in-arms, and civilian relatives and friends killed by Russian firepower.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin abolished Monday the Presidential Human Rights Commission headed by rights campaigner and former dissident Sergei Kovalev, Moscow Echo radio said.

Mr. Yeltsin decreed the commission would be placed under the authority of a similar body within the presidential administrative, the radio said. The president's office has not confirmed the abolition of the commission.

The move would appear aimed at clipping the wings of the outspoken Kovalev, who has repeatedly denounced the numerous violations of human rights allegedly perpetrated by Russian forces during the war in Chechnya.

Mr. Kovalev, 64, has been vehemently critical of Russia's use of massive military force and indiscriminate bombing and shelling of civilians to crush Chechnya's unilateral secession bid from Russia.

His verbal attacks over Moscow's eight-month involvement in the southern break-away republic has seen him increasingly distanced from the Russian president.

## Decision of the century: Drop the A-bomb

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President Harry Truman did it in the blink of an eye and he had few regrets.

He authorised the dropping of the atom bomb on Japan in the very same moment he was asked early on the morning of July 31, 1945. No hesitation. No brooding about the consequences. No doubts. No ifs ands or buts.

"Let's there be no mistake about it," Mr. Truman wrote in his memoirs. "It regarded the bomb as a military weapon and never had any doubt that it should be used."

A half century later, that decision is hotly debated, with a generation of historians and critics who were yet to be born casting doubt on its morality, military usefulness and his motives in a flood of books, papers and speeches.

But a man who was at Truman's side — and who opposed using the bomb because he felt Japan was about to surrender — said the bomb should be given its just due in bringing about the end of the World War II, regardless of their arguments.

"It gave the Emperor (Hirohito) something to hang his hat on," says Paul Nitze, a retired arms control negotiator, diplomat, navy secretary and Truman aide. "I think it's safe to say the atom bomb may have given the Japanese a face-saving way to surrender."

He pointed out recently, at a small gathering to consider Truman's decision organised by the U.S. Navy Memorial Commission, that even after the first bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan's cabinet was still divided.

He said people forget that the Japanese people as a whole did not know about the atom bomb because the military did not let on. "It was only understood locally, not throughout the islands," Mr. Nitze said of the bomb that left 140,000 dead by the end of 1945. (It killed 71,379 immediately, the rest later).

"It did little more than add a sense of urgency to the deliberations" of the Japanese government, he said.

The bombs "were psychological instruments, not military," he said, able to destroy only small cities and after the two were dropped on Japan it would be months before the United States could assemble a third.

Mr. Nitze said Mr. Truman went along with Secretary of War Henry Stimson, Secretary of State Dean Acheson and General George Marshall who wanted the bomb dropped.

He recalled that the decision to bomb, rather than wait for Japan's complete collapse, was also based on the belief from intelligence reports that Japan would kill the 140,000 prisoners of war it held if U.S. troops set foot on the homeland.

In addition, estimates of how many Americans would die in an invasion ranged widely, from around 40,000 to Gen. Marshall's view of 250,000. "No one knew," Mr. Nitze said. "There is no way even now to tell. It could be 40,000 or 10 times that. Who will ever be able to say?"

It also was influenced by the reality of having so many troops waiting. He said Navy Secretary James Forrestal told him "one thing you have to do is not let 11.5 million men stand idly by. Politically, it would cause problems."

"I was sceptical. We were already firebombing," Mr. Nitze said, referring to the fact that in March 1945, 279 B-29 bombers dropped tonnes of napalm-like jelly gas on Tokyo, killing 84,000 people.

"I thought this would be one more drop in the bucket in destructive force," he said.

Mr. Nitze, who was in charge of surveying bomb

This file photo shows a man displaying his irradiated back in the aftermath of the first atomic bomb explosion in Hiroshima Aug. 6, 1945. Hiroshima lost some 140,000 people in the atomic explosion and from subsequent radiation sickness in the days and months that followed (AFP photo)

damage, said he "was more stricken by the destruction of Dresden in Germany than either Hiroshima or Nagasaki."

Mr. Truman seemed to make the decision with astonishing ease. In Potsdam, Germany, before another meeting with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, Mr. Truman took an important message from a navy aide, Message Number 41011.

From Stimson, it asked for a decision. George Elsey, the aide, watched as Mr. Truman, without hesitation turned over the note and wrote in pencil on the back:

"Sec. War. Reply to your 41011. Suggestions approved. Release when ready, but not sooner than Aug. 2."

Years later, when he was asked by a historian how he deliberated and what he was thinking, Mr. Truman leaned over, held out his hand and snapped his fingers.

"I decided it like that," he said.

## China's army does not rule out force against Taiwan

BEIJING (R) — China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) will not give up the threat of force against rival Taiwan if the island tries to declare independence, Defence Minister Chi Haotian said in a hard-hitting speech Monday.

Mr. Chi's warning, coupled with missile tests off the Nationalist-ruled island in mid-July, marked China's fiercest threat to Taipei since its President Lee Teng-Hui enraged Beijing with a private visit to the United States in June.

"The PLA will not undertake to eschew the use of force, and will not sit idle and let it go unchecked if foreign forces meddle in China's internal affairs to effect an 'independent Taiwan,'" Xinhua News Agency quoted Mr. Chi as telling a reception to mark Army Day on Aug. 1.

Neither would China's three-million strong army sit 'idle' if Taiwan authorities are bent on splitting China," Mr. Chi said.

China's Communist rulers have considered Taiwan's Nationalists as a rebel government since they fled there after losing a civil war in 1949. Both Beijing and Taipei have said they want reunification, but on very different terms.

Mr. Chi's speech was Beijing's most overt statement of its antipathy to any hint of efforts by Taiwan, a virtual diplomatic pariah, to establish a higher international profile.

It follows China's tests of six guided surface-to-surface missiles just 140 kilometres north of Taiwan on July 21 to 26 along with a string of peacocks to its military modernisation and the success of recent army exercises.

Diplomats said they expected president and Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, who also heads the powerful Central Military Commission, to issue a similarly tough speech Tuesday, the 68th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army.

"The PLA will firmly carry out the government's policy of peaceful reunification of the motherland and resolutely opposes moves by foreign forces to interfere in China's internal affairs, infringe upon China's sovereignty to undermine China's reunification," Xinhua quoted Mr. Chi as saying.

He was apparently referring to ties with the United States, which have plunged, as a result of Mr. Lee's U.S. visit, to their lowest point since the PLA used force to crush student-led pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

China has said repeatedly it would use force if Taiwan declared independence.

Military analysts have said the unprecedented announcement of the recent missile tests and ongoing military exercises off the

Chinese coast of Zhejiang province, just north of Taiwan, were a show of force to remind Taipei that Beijing's threat is not an idle one.

Although some said they did not expect China to use force against Taiwan they added that it might be pushed into action such as a naval blockade around the island.

The East Sea 5 Exercises along the Zhejiang coast have for the first time included mountain warfare training and city occupation drills with paratroopers engaged in house-to-house combat along with the more regular amphibious landing and air support, one analyst said.

The People's Daily said the 2.2 million-strong land army had upgraded its troops so that 70 per cent now qualified as special forces.

China has also announced it has held one of its largest air defence exercises in recent years — on July 18 in a desert in the northwest — and fired an unspecified number of surface-to-air guided missiles. It did not name the desert.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's President Lee said Monday that the island will definitely not develop nuclear weapons though it is capable of doing so.

"The Republic of China (Taiwan) has the ability to develop nuclear weapons, but the Republic of China will definitely not develop nuclear weapons," Mr. Lee

told the National Assembly.

Mr. Lee made the comment, broadcast on state-funded television, during a question-and-answer session in the current National Assembly session.

A deputy proposed last week that Taiwan should develop a nuclear arsenal to beef up its national defence, and Mr. Lee said the issue must be re-studied from "a long-term point of view."

Also Monday more than 60 senior Taiwanese officials left for Beijing to attend a financial seminar, marking the biggest delegation to visit China since bilateral ties soured in June.

Former Finance Minister Loh Jen-Kong, current chairman of Dah An Commercial Bank, led officials from the Central Bank, the Finance Ministry, major banks and brokerages and professors for the two-day seminar starting Tuesday, the organisers, Taipei Foundation of Finance, said.

Former Central Bank Governor Samuel Shieh also travelled with the delegation as a consultant, the foundation, a private research body, added.

"They will get together with more than 100 delegates from the mainland's industry, government and academic fields. They will doubtless provide excellent chances for financial exchanges across the straits," said a statement issued by the foundation.

## U.S., China harden stands ahead of talks

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (AFP) — U.S. and Chinese officials hardened their stances Monday on rows over Taiwan and the arrest of a human rights activist as Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived for talks with his Chinese counterpart.

Mr. Christopher is to meet Foreign Minister Qian Qichen Tuesday after an ASEAN security conference in Brunei but the prospects for patching up severely strained Sino-U.S. ties looked increasingly dim.

"I expect to discuss the path forward and high level visits but I do not expect any absolute conclusions on that or any dramatic results," Mr. Christopher said.

Washington has already ruled out the one concession that Beijing wants — a clear-cut ban on future visits to the United States by Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui.

Relations have sunk to a new low since Mr. Lee's private visit in June that left Beijing seething over what is seen as a violation of agreements against contacts with its rival government on Taiwan.

The United States is pushing for the release of Harry Wu, a Chinese-American human rights investigator held on June 19 and accused of spying.

Beijing has refused to discuss Mr. Wu's arrest, which spokesman Shen Guofang spoke as "an independent criminal case," with no links to Sino-U.S. relations.

"Taiwan is the most important issue in our relations with the United States," Mr. Shen said.

"On the subject of Chinese territory, the Chinese government will never make any concessions," Mr. Shen said.

"If the U.S. side fails to take positive action then any improvement in relations would be impossible."

Mr. Christopher last week rejected Chinese demands for a ban on visits by leaders from Taiwan. However, signals have emerged from Washington that President Bill Clinton wanted to meet Chinese head of state Jiang Zemin to mend ties.

Speaking on his way to Brunei, Mr. Christopher said a summit would not be likely unless China releases Mr. Wu.

"It's very difficult for me to envision any circumstances under which President Jiang Zemin would be able to come to Washington to meet with the president if Harry Wu is still incarcerated," Mr. Christopher said.

U.S. officials have not confirmed for a Sino-U.S. summit but Mr. Christopher said he would discuss "high-level" visits when he meets Mr. Qian.

Mr. Christopher is also to hand Mr. Qian a letter for Mr. Jiang from Mr. Clinton discussing relations, but he said it did not contain an invitation for a meeting.

He downplayed his first meeting with Mr. Qian since the decline in relations. "It is an important meeting but not a make or break meeting, or an all or nothing meeting," he said.

Relations have been tense over issues such as human rights, trade and Chinese weapons sales but Taiwan and Mr. Wu's arrest have sent them into free fall.

Talks between Mr. Qian and Mr. Christopher look set to overshadow a meeting on Security issues organised by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Many Asian countries are increasingly worried by the dispute which they see as potentially destabilising for the region.

"The U.S.-China relationship is fundamental," said an ASEAN delegate. "The current situation is much worse than we anticipated."

Mr. Qian has met with ASEAN members — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — and has heard renewed pledges that the countries will not have official contacts with Taiwan.

He also mollified ASEAN concerns over territorial disputes in the South China Sea by saying that China will follow international law in discussing rival claims to the Spratly Islands.

## Australia, N.Zealand excluded from Asia-Europe summit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (AFP) — Asian nations preparing for a summit with Europe in early 1996 agreed Monday to exclude Australia and New Zealand despite Japan's lobbying for the two to be taken aboard, officials said.

The unprecedented summit in Thailand will include the seven-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) along with Japan, China and South Korea, senior officials said after a meeting on the summit plans.

Leaders of the 10 Asean nations will face counterparts from 15 European Union members plus the European Commission in an informal, free-flowing set-up. The theme will be forging "a new Asia-Europe partnership."

The summit is an initiative of ASEAN, which include Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Delegates to the ongoing ASEAN annual meeting in Brunei said the Asian group reached a consensus that Australia and New Zealand will not be asked to join the first summit, but may be included later on.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans played down the snub Monday, saying it was "probably only a matter of time" before a consensus was reached on their involvement. "We're relaxed about it," he said.

The summit has been tentatively set for Feb. 29 to March 1 although Japan has yet to confirm it can attend on those dates, which coincide with a parliamentary session.

Asia is already linked to the Americas through the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, which will hold a summit in Osaka, Japan, in November to discuss the implementation of a regional free-trade programme.

Japan was joined by South Korea in asking that Australia and New Zealand, both APEC members, be included in the summit with Europe, Singapore Foreign Ministry permanent secretary Kishore Mahbubani said.

But Japan and South Korea accepted the views of the majority, and they "do not want to disrupt the consensus," he said.

He said plans called for leaders to "be able to sit comfortably with each other and talk to each other at the meeting, so they felt that the agenda should be kept very simple and short."

Mr. Mahbubani said other nations would be considered for future summits. A European proposal to include foreign ministers as well in the Bangkok summit will be subject to further consultations with the leaders.

Senior officials are to meet in Madrid from December 19-20 to continue preparations for the summit.

Earlier Monday, Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hiroshi Fukuda told journalists that Tokyo was determined to "persuade the others" to include Australia and New Zealand in the summit.

Japan, Australia and New Zealand are taking part in a regional security forum here Tuesday, followed by annual ASEAN talks with key allies.

"There are very wide and deep relations between those two countries and the rest of Asia, and our feeling is that maybe the dialogue between Asia and Europe can benefit by having those two countries," Mr. Fukuda said.

Malaysia, which is pushing for an East Asian Economic Caucus that would exclude Australia and New Zealand, was the most vocal against bringing the two into the Asia-Europe summit.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Ahmad Badawi warned Saturday that ASEAN might be losing its collective voice in bigger groupings and must not allow itself to be "taken for granted" or "used by others in secure their own interests."

## French congress meets to amend constitution

VERSAILLES, France (R) — A rare joint session of both houses of parliament opened in the palace of France's "sun king" Monday to amend the constitution, widening the use of referendums, in a move critics warned could increase presidential rule.

The Congress of the 887 members of the Senate and National Assembly was also due to adopt two other amendments extending the session time of parliament to a single nine-month period, and making it easier to prosecute parliamentarians for ordinary criminal offences.

New President Jacques Chirac promised the reforms in a drive to give French voters a greater direct say in democracy.

Under the proposed text, already adopted separately by each house of parliament, the president will be empowered to call a referendum on "reforms relating to the economic or social policy of the nation and of public services."

The conservative Gaullist Chirac promised during his election campaign to hold a referendum on reforming France's highly centralised education system, which would not have been possible under the current constitution.

The Socialist and Communist opposition parties vehemently oppose the amendment, saying it will further weaken parliament and the courts by enabling the president to bypass the legislature and the judiciary by putting controversial proposals directly to a vote.

They also argue that issues as complex as education reform or overhauling France's welfare system are too complex to be reduced to a simple "yes no" choice.

Even within Mr. Chirac's own overwhelming parliamentary majority, some lawmakers voiced misgivings about the sweeping power it would give the president.

The Senate forced a modification so that any issue put to a referendum would first have to be debated by both chambers of parliament. But there would be no parliamentary vote.

Constitutional experts say the change keeps firmly in the hands of the executive.

The government spurned calls from the extreme-right and Ecologists for the public to be allowed to force a Swiss-style referendum by mounting a petition with a required number of signatures.



## Jordan Times

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## Labour market influx

IT IS an established fact that most Arab labourers in this country, who come from mainly Egypt, Syria and Iraq, work in the construction and agriculture sectors. The reason being that within these two sectors, foreign labour equates to a cheaper labour force than a national workforce. The average Egyptian worker, for example, earns JD 70 a month if engaged in agriculture and JD 150 if in construction.

However, work permits cost a prohibitive JD 300 per labourer, thus explaining why most work illegally. A building firm employing 20 workers is likely to resent paying JD 6,000 per annum to obtain work permits for them.

This is one side to the problem of imported labour. The second is the fact that since no minimum-wage law exists, employers, out of sheer self-interest, would rather employ foreigners. A young Jordanian labourer who pays rent or supports a family cannot possibly make ends meet on JD 70 to JD 100 a month.

There is therefore a dilemma. While the Minister of Labour, Dr. Nader Abul Sbaar, says he will not deport illegal Arab workers, which is an honourable and exemplary stand, he cannot ignore cries of injustice from Jordanian labourers and political activists.

The question now is: would the curbing of foreign labour really open opportunities for the local workforce? We have to admit that we cannot answer the question, simply because we lack serious studies on the issue. Figures on the size of Jordan's workforce and the number of foreign labourers have been cited. But we doubt that any of them is totally accurate or believable. There are also no studies revealing the behavioural patterns of Jordanian workers. Would they be willing to replace Egyptian agricultural workers in the Jordan Valley or the South, for instance? There are different views on this and on the question of whether Jordanians would want to replace Arab workers who work in construction.

Unless we answer questions like these, we will find it difficult to react meaningfully and wisely to the issue at hand. It is therefore incumbent on the Ministry of Labour and other ministries to study the issue comprehensively before deciding on any certain plan of action.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SULTAN AL Hattab, a writer in Al Ra'i Monday landed Qatar as the first Arab Gulf state to open a representative office in the self-rule areas, describing the move as a step that might encourage other Gulf states to follow suit. Saying that Qatar has followed in the footsteps of Jordan, Egypt and Morocco in opening the office in Gaza, the writer said that the move is considered as an open support for the Palestinian leadership in its quest to establish an independent entity following the end of occupation. Economic and diplomatic support is what the Palestine National Authority (PNA) needs at the moment. The PNA has been obtaining this support from countries, said the writer. European states and Muslim Nations have already opened offices and provided moral and financial support for the Palestinians and it is time for all the Arab countries to do the same at a time when the Palestinians are struggling to stand on their own feet and build for the future.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said Monday that because Jordan is in need of tourists and visitors, it ought to take steps to help achieve that goal. Regulations banning a Jordanian from driving a car with Saudi licence plate discourages Saudi visitors from coming to Jordan, for instance, said Mohammad Sobeih. He said that a Saudi national is not accustomed to roads, districts and towns in Jordan and he prefers a Jordanian to drive him around; but he is disappointed with the traffic rules. Another point is finding Saudi Arabian and other cars for slight offences, which harm visitors who are not aware of the country's traffic and other systems, continued the writer. Also improper and untactful behaviour on the part of officials at border posts can do harm to the Kingdom and scare away visitors, he said. The writer said that traffic rules and other measures should be relaxed and traffic police and other officials should be flexible in their dealings with visitors.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# History as entertainment or teacher?

By Rami G. Khouri

I HAVE had the pleasure this week of travelling around Syria on a family vacation visiting some of its major antiquities sites, on what is supposed to be, primarily a leisure trip. Yet it is difficult to appreciate the technical prowess and physical grandeur of sites such as Palmyra, Krak des Chevaliers (Qala'at El-Husn), the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus and Bostra in the south, or the calm power of monuments such as the tomb of Saladin (Saladin) without — from an Arab perspective, at least — drawing some explicitly political conclusions about the past.

The ancient monuments of our Levantine lands are presented to the world these days primarily in two forms — as profitable cultural entertainment for foreign tourists, or as destinations for picnics and family outings for Arabs. We tend to view our antiquities as being primarily about the past, and as being passive, dead monuments whose historical moment has passed long ago.

My renewed encounter with Syrian antiquities has dispelled many of these concepts, and reminded me of the many contemporary, political and global lessons that are inherent in these ancient ruins. The first lesson that we should ponder is about the nature of our antiquities sites throughout the Levant region: Are these monuments about the past only, or are they also about the present and the future?

I would suggest that they are very much about the present and the future, because even though the particular historical circumstances that gave rise to them — the Crusades, for example — have long vanished, the underlying geo-political and international forces that determine the nature of contacts and relationships between the Levant and the world's powers have changed very little.

The Crusades may be long over, but the essential political concept of Crusading is very much alive and well, though in a new, modern form. The Crusades wanted to conquer Jerusalem and the holy land and to wrest it from Muslim hands because they thought that the Holy City belonged only to them. They conquered Arab lands, and built massive fortresses to assert their eternal control of the land.

Walking around the astounding Crusader fortress of Qala'at El-Husn the other day, my reaction to the whole

Crusader episode was a combination of awe at their technical prowess in building such spectacular castles and fortified towns, and bemusement with the doomed audacity they showed in attempting to conquer and retain such important regions of Arab lands. I found myself wanting to read and learn more about the Arab political and military leaders who confronted and defeated the Crusaders, often at very high costs in terms of Arab lives and resources. The fascinating thing about the Crusades is not that they occurred or were finally beaten back, but that they endured for so long — about two hundred years — in a region that was and remains endowed with such forceful human, natural, cultural and strategic resources. Archaeology and our antiquities monuments, in this respect, can be important resources for our own learning about our own past, complete with its successes and failures. The ancient monuments that we merely sell to foreign tour packages were, in their own time, emphatically political and ideological statements, and we would be making a very sad mistake if we thought that we could repackage our past in a non-ideological and purely commercial manner that essentially sees us view our past through the emotional prism of a Disneyland and the national/cultural values of an eastern Florida.

It is more than merely interesting to recall that while the most important person of the 12th century was perhaps Saladin, the most internationally recognised figure of the 20th century has been — according to survey evidence — Mickey Mouse. The journey that we have travelled in the last eight centuries has been marked by many complex relationships with Europe and the modern West, yet some of the underlying forces that determine the nature of our relationships have changed very little, and — if Mickey Mouse is any indication — have probably changed for the worse.

The commercial imperative that dominates the West's attitude to the Levant, the wider Middle East and the rest of the developing world is perhaps only a modern, mercantile version of the more crude Crusading mentality of the 11th and 12th centuries. The Western attitude to Bosnia in this respect is fascinating and instructive. I recall vividly during the period immediately before the Gulf War in 1991 that George Bush and James Baker repeatedly stated the key reasons for their military coalition to drive

Iraq out of Kuwait: The reasons were about the credibility of United Nations resolutions, the importance of assuring that small countries would not be subjected to the predatory aims of bigger, stronger countries, and the importance of affirming the application of the international rule of law.

Those principles are largely forgotten today in Bosnia, perhaps because Bosnia, unlike Kuwait, is not commercially significant; and in our modern world, where universalism is denominated in how many tickets to Mickey Mouse spectacles you can sell, the issues of truly universal interest to the West are those that have measurable commercial attributes. This is sad but real aspect of our contemporary world, but it was also a reality in the ancient world as well.

When we visit antiquities sites in the Middle East, we should make the effort to derive as much useful information from them for our own lives as we seem to be able to derive for the entertainment of visitors from other countries. The key lessons of a site such as Palmyra, for example, seem to be about the long-term futility of imperial dependence, of trying to generate durability and well-being for yourself in this region by delivering strategic services to imperial capitals far away. But Palmyra also teaches us about the political and aesthetic or cultural beauty of small nations or kingdoms in this region that live well and for many centuries by pursuing national strategies that serve their own self-interest while also being useful to others, ie. by striking a balance between national dignity and international cooperation and interaction.

The lesson of an Umayyad mosque, on the other hand, is primarily about the productivity, creativity and sheer human and national power that can be generated by indigenous resources when political forces allow local talent to manifest itself.

The cycle of national achievement and regression has defined the Middle East for thousands of years, and no doubt will do so for thousands of years to come. Perhaps the achievement phases could be lengthened and the regression phases shortened if we were better able to learn from the lessons of our rich past, instead of primarily relating to the past as the source of endless entertainment and amusement.

## The Third World is watching the United Nations and the West

By Martin Khor

PENANG, Malaysia — The Serbian capture of "safe areas" in Bosnia is seriously eroding the credibility of the United Nations and the West in the eyes of many Third World countries.

Developing nations with large Muslim populations, such as Malaysia, wonder why Western powers show such reluctance either to defend the Bosnians, most of whom are Muslims, or to allow them to protect themselves by lifting the U.N. embargo on arms supplies to Bosnia.

Recent developments have exposed the hypocrisy of the West's rhetoric on human rights: the hollowness of its commitment to protect the sovereignty of a nation, even with the heart of Europe itself, if there is no direct threat to Western strategic interests; and the lack of political will to act militarily if this runs counter to domestic opinion polls and electoral prospects.

The French and the British have organised a 12,500-member Rapid Reaction Force. It is intended to intervene quickly when needed. But the force faces a familiar constraint: it cannot act without U.N. sanctions.

The sense of frustration and anger in Bosnia's population, especially its Muslims, must run very deep. Not only have the major powers refused to act when so many Bosnians are killed, raped or driven from their homes as Serbs carry out their policy of "ethnic cleansing," even more disturbing is the arms embargo, which denies the Bosnian government the means to defend its citizens.

The Bosnian Serbs have had no problem skirting the embargo. They continue to get an adequate supply of weapons.

A number of Third World nations, particularly those with large Muslim populations, have pressed for lifting the arms embargo

on Bosnia but have faced strong resistance from Western countries, particularly in Europe.

By maintaining the embargo while failing to protect the Bosnians, the Western powers are actually aiding the Serbian takeover of Bosnia. The Bosnian Serbs, using supplies and aid from Serbia, have been able to advance rapidly, taking advantage of the Bosnian government's lack of weapons and the willingness of the West and the U.N. "peacekeepers" to stand by and watch.

Meanwhile, as human rights were being trampled underfoot on a massive scale in Bosnia, the human rights issue most promoted and publicised in the United States was the detention of the Chinese-American activist Harry Wu in China.

Newt Gingrich, the House speaker, threatened that America would use trade sanctions against China if Mr. Wu were not released. If only the same

fervor in promoting human rights that U.S. leaders show when individuals are detained was also mobilised to defend the human rights of large groups of people undergoing collective siege and torment in places like Bosnia.

Such double standards undermine the credibility of both the major Western powers and the United Nations.

The West could still do much to protect Bosnians from Serbian attack. But at the very least it must immediately lift the arms embargo on Bosnia and allow countries prepared to do so to send in rapid reaction forces to help defend the safe areas and recapture Srebrenica.

The writer is director of the Third World Network, a Penang-based non-governmental organisation dealing with developing-country issues. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

## U.S. Bosnia arms lift could bring real nightmare

By Nicholas Doughty Reuter

LONDON — For Europe, the real nightmare in the Balkans may only just be starting.

If the United States lifts the international arms embargo for Bosnia's government, diplomats and analysts say the consequences could go far beyond a humiliating withdrawal of the U.N. peacekeeping force and an even worse slaughter in Bosnia.

Many predict a wider Balkan conflict that would suck in NATO members Greece and Turkey and a lasting international rift between the United States, European allies and Russia.

That in turn would cripple future U.N. operations, hamstring NATO and destroy any hope of building a better European security order from the chaos that has followed the cold war.

"The effects would be far-reaching, from a worsening of the fighting in Bosnia to serious damage to the international institutions," said Michael Williams of the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS).

Wednesday's vote in the U.S. Senate to lift the ban if U.N. peacekeepers pull out

or are asked to leave by the Bosnian government has to go through several difficult hurdles before it becomes law, since it is opposed by President Bill Clinton.

But any U.S. move to supply weapons would coincide with the end of the U.N. mission in Bosnia since key European nations have said they would be forced to withdraw.

British Prime Minister John Major hinted at the problems that would follow during last week's international meeting in London on the crisis, saying the peacekeepers had helped contain the conflict and curb the worst excesses.

"If UNPROFOR were forced out of Bosnia... it would not end our involvement," Mr. Major said. "We all know that."

Despite warnings and criticism from European allies and Russia, many in the U.S. Congress believe it is now time to act after three years of war and that nothing could be worse or more unjust than the current humiliation of the U.N. mission.

The Bosnian government argues that the U.N. arms embargo, imposed on all parties in former Yugoslavia in 1992 as the old fed-

eration fell apart, has put its forces at an unfair disadvantage since the Serbs had most of the heavy weapons.

But this is how European diplomats — and U.S. administration officials — fear things could develop if Washington unilaterally lifts the arms embargo.

A U.N. pullout would require the biggest military operation in Europe since World War II to withdraw the peacekeepers. Led by NATO, it would include some 60,000 troops, almost half of them from the United States.

Knowing that the arms embargo was to be lifted, the Bosnian Serbs would probably launch major attacks on government positions and try to hijack U.N. vehicles and weaponry. This would make a withdrawal much riskier, with higher casualties.

There would be more attacks on "safe areas" and more floods of refugees. "This time it would be no holds barred. The appalling scenes in Srebrenica and Zepa would be repeated elsewhere," said Mr. Williams of the IISS.

A more intense conflict in Bosnia would risk dragging in Croatia and even Serbia itself, diplomats say.

An end to the U.N. mission would bring armaments not only from the United States but from Muslim countries, including Turkey.

Greece and Turkey, although both members of NATO, are traditional enemies and deeply suspicious of each other's motives and history in the Balkans.

Russia is also critical of NATO and Western involvement in former Yugoslavia and may sell the Serbs weapons if others begin to supply the Muslim-led government.

"What you then have is a bitter war sustained by support from the United States and Russia, in the heart of Europe," said another diplomat. "Almost unthinkable. But it could happen."

Lifting the arms embargo and ending the U.N. mission would finally prove that Europe and its institutions had failed to deal with ethnic and nationalist problems on the continent.

A unilateral lift by the United States — in defiance of a U.N. ban — would destroy Washington's authority at the United Nations on other issues and undermine its claim to lead NATO, where it has often disagreed with European allies over Bosnia.

## LETTERS

### Name distorted

To the Editor:

REFERENCE IS made to the interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (Jordan Times, July 28), as I know Jerusalem, especially the Old City, rather well. I was puzzled to locate a "Via da la Rose" mentioned in the text of the interview. After a short reflection I have become sure that it is a distortion of the name of "Via Dolores" or the way of the dolorous, commonly known to Christians and others as the "Way of the Cross" of Jesus.

Hubert Dobers, Amman.

### Waiting for telephone directory

To the Editor:

JORDAN HAS been without a telephone directory since 1983. It is not enough to complain or to underline the significance of this failure and I honestly think those responsible should be questioned. We enter into perhaps the final chance for a leap towards catching up with the world and there is no simple telephone directory. I know all the excuses. I think a group of three or four 18-year olds with some computer literacy can produce such a document containing 250,000 entries in a week.

I can clearly recall the promises of officials that the directory will be ready in June. By the way, I wish to remind the Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) that a directory should be published every year and not once every generation.

As we are warned to pay our bills to the TCC and line up and have the right change and not to argue about the rates and the service, I protest the unacceptable failure of the TCC to produce the directory and call upon it to shape up very quickly.

Jafar Salem, Amman.

### 'Treat us well'

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to share an experience I had in Jordan as a domestic employee for a Jordanian family.

My employer requested me to take the children to "Kids' Zone" in Sweihayeh an exciting event for both me and the children. When we got there, the children immediately got busy playing and having fun, while I stood to keep watch over them. Finally, I got a little tired, so I decided to take a seat. Suddenly a person who works there approached me and said: "You can't sit here. Only madames are allowed to sit here." "Why?" I asked.

"Orders from the owner," came the quick reply. What could I do? I stood up and could only think of the fact that I was made to pay an entrance fee like anyone else. But I wasn't allowed to sit on a plastic chair. I wondered whether, in response to a call of nature, I would be told not to sit on a toilet seat. I wondered whether I should bring my own chair next time. I wondered whether I should take the children somewhere else on the next occasion.

What a way to behave! What attitudes are these? Aren't we all born equal? There are the rich and the poor, the mighty and the weak, the fortunate and the less fortunate, the haves and have-nots. But in the end, whatever we are and wherever we are, we will all be treated well and equally up there.

Belle F. de Jesus, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Negotiations between the relentless southern city of Islamabad and the Prime Minister to's embittered boycott of the Mohajir movement (MQM) government several of its house searches and even bothered demands." A head of the M tion team, said

OSLO (R) — N Monday there significant turn Palestinian state thanks to close between the National Authority Israel and Norway, who international donors for aid nian self-rule a final size of the would depend nomic and pol ments in the re year. "We are in the budget dis Palestinian a and especially finance." Jan secretary in the Foreign Minis ters. He cited the Palestinian the World Ba

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## Bikdash — the last of the hardened Arab Marxist chiefs

By Marian Nimry  
Special to the Jordan Times

KHALID BIKDASH, the Syrian Communist Party chief for 40 years who died last week in Damascus, is remembered by his comrades as a committed Marxist, a fighter for greater Arab freedom, a great orator and a persuasive but undemocratic leader.

"I met him when he was still working underground," recalls Issa Madanat, secretary general of the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, who met Mr. Bikdash for the first time in 1954. "He was a striking personality, confident, with persuasive abilities."

Khalid Bikdash, of Kurdish origin, fought for independence during the French occupation in the twenties.

At that time, the teachings of Lenin and Marx attracted him and he joined the Syrian-Lebanese Communist Party in 1930. Shortly afterwards he went to Moscow to continue his study of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

In 1935 Mr. Bikdash returned to Syria and in 1937 became the secretary general for the 12-year-old Communist Party.

In 1958, Syria and Egypt



Khalid Bikdash

him believe that he was always right."

In the mid-fifties, Mr. Bikdash became the first communist deputy to be elected to an Arab parliament. His procurement of 17 thousand votes in conservative Damascus was an obvious declaration of the people's response to his leftist ideas.

In 1959, all communist activists were arrested in Syria and Egypt. Mr. Bikdash sought political asylum in the Soviet Union and returned only after the end of the unity between Egypt and Syria in 1961.

While the party planned

to stage demonstrations against Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's Reform Movement in 1970, Mr. Bikdash advised reflection and caution and then went to form his own Syrian National Progressive Front in 1972.

Yaacoub Zayadin, secretary general of the Jordanian Communist Party, remembers the communist leader as a big man over 180cm tall, an excellent orator, a man who spoke clearly and precisely and who was unparalleled in his political performance and shrewd analysis.

Towards the end, Mr. Bikdash remained politically active despite his illness and was still the secretary general of the party at the age of 83.

Tens of thousands of people showed up at his funeral, including deputies from the Syrian government and several delegates from the various political parties in Syria, according to Mr. Zayadin. "He spent more than 60 years of his life in and out of jail, resisting occupation, staging demonstrations and living in exile."

Mr. Zayadin said. "He will be remembered as a great man, an idealist and a fighter for social progress."

## Talks to curb ethnic violence in Karachi break down

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Negotiations to stop the relentless violence in the southern city of Karachi were called off Monday when Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's embittered opposition boycotted the talks.

The Mohajir Qami Movement (MQM) accused the government of ignoring several of its demands, including one to stop house-to-house searches by paramilitary rangers in MQM strongholds in Karachi.

"The government hasn't even bothered to reply to our demands," Ajmal Dehlvi, head of the MQM negotiation team, said in Karachi.

No further talks were scheduled.

Many people fear an end to talks will lead to more violence in Karachi, Pakistan's financial centre, which already is reeling from target killings and daily gun battles, usually between MQM supporters and police.

Entire neighbourhoods of Karachi have been turned into battle zones, and financial institutions and the Karachi stock exchange are routinely shut down by strike calls.

Ms. Bhutto's government opened talks with her militant opponents July 11, 1993, after nearly two months of

fighting that left about 500 people dead, most of them caught in the crossfire.

Since talks began, another 165 people have been killed. Little progress was made during the four rounds of talks, and neither side appears willing to compromise.

The MQM demands more rights and better opportunities for the Mohajirs, who immigrated to Pakistan after Indian partition in 1947. The immigrants make up about 70 per cent of Karachi's 12 million people.

MQM members say they are denied quality jobs and education. They want the

Mohajirs to be recognised as a fifth ethnic group, believing that would bring equality. Successive governments have refused.

Ms. Bhutto blames much of the violence on the largest MQM faction led by Alif Hussain, a charismatic 39-year-old living in self-imposed exile in London. A breakaway faction of the MQM known as the Haqiqi further complicates the situation.

The two factions regularly clash, and Mr. Hussain's group accuses Ms. Bhutto's government of creating the Haqiqi group to destroy them.

## Norway sees upturn in Palestinian fortunes

OSLO (R) — Norway said on Monday there had been a significant turnaround in the Palestinian self-rule budget thanks to closer cooperation between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Israel and donor countries.

Norway, which chairs an international consortium of donors for aid to the Palestinian self-rule areas, said the final size of the budget deficit would depend on further economic and political developments in the remainder of the year.

"We are impressed with the budget discipline of the Palestinian administration and especially the ministry of finance," Jan Egeland, state secretary in the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, told Reuters. He cited reports from the Palestinian authority and the World Bank.

"I feel confident the budget deficit will go down rather than up. The worst is over. We have reached the turning point thanks to the Palestinian Authority, Israel and donor countries," Mr. Egeland said.

In April a meeting between the Palestinian Authority, Israel and the donor community forecast a budget deficit this year for the self-governing areas of 136 million.

Weak indirect and direct taxation systems and poor economic management by the Palestinian Authority had been exacerbated by slow clearance of excise duties and other revenues owed to the authority by Israel and long periods of border closures.

"The situation was fairly bleak. We were faced with a

big budget deficit which looked as if it was growing," he said.

But the April meetings provided a framework for the three sides to strengthen cooperation and obtained detailed commitments for Israel's support to Palestinian economic development including free passage of goods across borders.

Contributions pledged by donor states — \$2.5 billion between 1994 and 1999 — also have begun to materialise after a slow start.

In March, Norway sent donor countries an urgent reminder to pay up or risk undermining the Middle East peace process.

Donor countries contribute into the Holst Fund, set up in honour of the former Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan

J. Holst who died after brokering the 1993 peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"We have expenditures from the Holst Fund of close to \$15 million per month and from being continually hand-to-mouth before, we are now able to cover that (expenditure)," Mr. Egeland said.

The major donor nations are the European Union, Japan, the United States, Saudi Arabia and Norway. In the most recent commitment Saudi Arabia pledged \$17.5 million to the Palestinian Authority and police force.

"For the first time we will be able to pay many thousands of public-sector employees on time. I feel confident we will avoid this year the problems of last year," Mr. Egeland said.

## King, Crown Prince discuss help to to Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

King Hussein said that Jordan's relations with Arab Gulf countries are improving and described as "good" relations with Syria and Egypt.

His Majesty reiterated Jordan's readiness to extend all possible support to the Palestinian people in their pursuit of their national rights.

The King said the Kingdom stresses in all forums the necessity of ending the suffering of the Iraqi people, adding that Iraq "has its importance and role in this region."

The King and the Crown Prince emphasised the sovereignty of the Kingdom and the independence of its decisions, adding that the policies Jordan has followed have secured its future and ended the threats that surrounded it in the past few years.

Responding to a question on the process of "normalisation" of ties with Israel, the King spoke again of his bewilderment at the use of the word "normalisation," saying that there is either a state of war or a state of peace and that Jordan and Israel have entered a state of peace.

The King said that human interaction between Jordanians and Israelis would dispel old

fears and could be a factor helping the Palestinians in their negotiations with Israel.

The King criticised anew professional unions' involvement in political activities "at the expense" of their professional responsibilities.

He said the unions have no right to dictate norms of behaviour on their members, indicating his support of a legislative change that would no longer make union membership obligatory for members of the various professions.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said Sunday that the government is "studying" legislation with view to introducing changes that would guarantee the freedom of choice of unions members.

Some unions said they would dismiss members who "normalise" ties with Israel.

Some laws ban professionals from practising their profession if they are not members of the unions. A decision by any union to dismiss a member for dealing with Israel will technically prevent him/her from working.

"Who gives the unions the right to judge people," the King said, urging the unions to focus more on raising the professional standards of their members and

addressing the problems which they face.

The King said the majority of Jordanians are supportive of the Kingdom's policies, which are carefully articulated to serve and protect the interests of the Kingdom.

King Hussein urged the minority to respect the views of the majority in accordance with the principles of democracy.

"The people are thirsty for information," the King said, adding that some in the media are still "living in the old times" and urging newspapers to present credible material that offers an objective picture of events.

Addressing the economic situation, the King said what is important is not to "become frustrated and frustrate the people."

The King said the Kingdom will be able to realise the economic opportunities of peace within three to five years. But he stressed the need to make the necessary reforms at all levels, including the "worn out" parts of the bureaucracy, in order to render the Kingdom able to utilise the opportunities that will be offered.

Talking to representatives of the local media in the meeting that lasted for over two hours, the Crown Prince pointed to

positive international sentiment towards the region but said that international investment will depend on the area's stability and regional cooperation.

"Market forces are encouraging but the political stands need to be changed," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan stressed the importance of articulating well-thought out and comprehensive visions for the development of the region instead of narrowing the focus to limited projects and ideas.

He said Jordan is not seeking aid in the traditional sense but is pursuing cooperation in implementing regional projects.

"The slow pace of movement is not only by the international community. The donors are searching for solid, clear ground for investment," he said.

The Crown Prince spoke of the importance of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, which will be held in Amman in October, stressing that the burden of preparing for the summit rests with the government as well as the private sector.

The King said that "we need the initiative of the people. The government cannot do everything."

## Japan, Americans argue over undersea treasure trove

By Vanora Bennett  
Reuter

LONDON — A rusting Japanese submarine carrying a fabulous treasure in gold has caused a row between Tokyo and the Americans who discovered it half a century after a U.S. torpedo consigned it to the deep.

The giant I-52 vessel sank in the Atlantic Ocean in June 1944, at the height of World War II. All 94 crew — and more than two tonnes of gold destined for Japan's wartime ally, Nazi Germany — went down too.

The following day when allied forces searched the area thousands of miles west of the Cape Verde Islands, they found only scraps of silk and a Japanese sandal floating on the water.

The submarine's exact whereabouts remained a mystery for the next five decades, despite estimates by the U.S. fighter-bomber which destroyed it, the nearby U.S. aircraft carrier Bogue and a German escort submarine which escaped.

Its cargo alone is worth \$25 million at modern prices and hundreds of tonnes of other metals are also on board. The metals were to have been used by Japan to pay Germany for new military technology.

Earlier this year U.S. maritime researcher Paul Tidwell used the Russian research ship Yuzhmorgeologiya to trace the submarine. It rests on the seabed 5,000 metres below the surface and 2,000 km west of the Cape Verde Islands.

Mr. Tidwell wants to remove the gold and if possible raise the craft. The price tag of up to \$8 million would leave plenty of change from the gold's modern value.

Mr. Tidwell told the New York Times he believed Tokyo would make no claim to the war booty which, according to a manifest radioed from Tokyo to Berlin and decoded by wartime U.S. interceptors, consists of 146 ingots packed in 49 metal boxes.

Japan's collective memory of World War II, in which it was on the losing side, is painful and traumatic. A new generation of Japanese adults have turned their backs on the military values of their forefathers.

But Japan has made it clear that there were limits to its shyness about the past. It wants the gold too.

"As a general rule, both the vessel and its cargo are definitely the property of the government of Japan," said an official of the Japanese Finance Ministry's (overseas) National Property Division.

"In this case we think we have certain rights under international law," Mr. Tidwell told Reuters by telephone from his U.S. home at Centerville, Virginia. "But if there's disagreement I think it will be worked out."

Mr. Tidwell prefers to stress the historical value of his find. "We've been keeping the Japanese notified since we back in May, we've been keeping them informed. If we did raise the submarine, we would

return it to Japan. "I think the Japanese are going to get behind this project."

"Now we have to concentrate on what really happened in the Atlantic 51 years ago," he said.

Historians have never photographed the I-52. At 108 metres long it was bigger than any U.S. submarine of the day.

Until it was sunk it was engaged in the secretive exchange of materials and technologies between Nazi leader Adolf Hitler and Japan's Emperor Hirohito.

Although allied ships controlled the surface of the Atlantic Ocean by 1944, the balance of power had not yet been decided under the vast cloak of oceanic cover.

The Germans and Japanese used this watery veil to transport war material, supplies and payments between themselves — a trade route snaking halfway round the globe whose continued existence was of serious concern to the Allies by June 1944.

As well as gold loaded in Japan in March 1944, the I-52 picked up 220 tonnes of tin, molybdenum and tungsten, 54 tonnes of raw rubber and three tonnes of quinine on a route past Singapore and Africa to the Nazi-held French port of Lorient.

It surfaced only at night to recharge batteries, travelling underwater by day.

But Allied codebreakers had mastered the German-Japanese ciphers dealing with the I-52's route and cargo. "When it surfaced on June

23 for a mid-Atlantic rendezvous with a German submarine, a U.S. avenger bomber swooped.

Raising the I-52 may still not be possible, even now the site has been discovered, Mr. Tidwell said. It is stuck in a three metre crater created by the impact of its landing.

The technology which Mr. Tidwell intends to use to raise it is similar to techniques used to recover the Titanic, the ocean liner which settled more than two miles underwater after sinking in 1912.

Raising the I-52 will be more difficult. "It's identical, but this submarine is 2 km deeper than the Titanic. We're excited about trying to meet that challenge, but... we might not manage to salvage this one."

Mr. Tidwell plans a photographic trip in the next six months to establish what he can do next.

The families of the Japanese crew, who were likely to oppose the salvage of the submarine by a private organisation from a foreign country, have not yet been identified.

Mr. Tidwell, himself a former military man who served in Vietnam two decades ago, said he did not expect to find human remains on the sunken warship.

"We don't expect to find any remains there. The Titanic showed there were no remains," he said. "The reasons are a combination of depth and the water being mineral poor, so everything breaks up and goes away."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Turkey wants more protection from Kurds in Germany

BONN (R) — Turkey's ambassador to Bonn, Volkan Vural, on Monday demanded tougher action against Kurdish separatists after firebombers attacked Turkish properties in Germany for the seventh successive night. Arsonists hurled petrol bombs at Turkish travel agencies in the cities of Bochum and Bremen but failed to break the windows or cause substantial damage, police said. Police attribute most of the more than two dozen attacks to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), fighting Ankara for independence or autonomy in southeast Turkey and banned in Germany for staging several series of violent protests here. Mr. Vural told German radio he understood that police could not post themselves in front of every Turkish shop. Germany is home to some two million Turks. It hosts about 400,000 Kurds, most of whom are from Turkey. But he said authorities must clamp down on PKK sympathisers.

### Malaysia wavers on arms pledge for Bosnia

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia on Monday shied away from reaffirming its offer to sell arms to Bosnian government forces, insisting it was merely preparing contingency plans in case of a U.N. withdrawal from Bosnia. "Arms should be the last thing... We are not there to go to war," Defence Minister Syed Hamid Albar told reporters at Kuala Lumpur International Airport after returning from a one-week trip to the United States and Canada to visit military aircraft makers. His remarks contradicted a statement by his deputy, Abdullah Fazil Che Wan, on Saturday that Malaysia would meet with the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)'s contact group in New York soon to discuss the Bosnian government's arms needs. Mr. Abdullah was reported by the New Straits Times on Sunday as saying a joint committee set up by Malaysia's defence and foreign ministries would meet the OIC contact group to "discuss the financing for the purchase of weaponry and logistics."

### Military kills 11 Kurds in southeast Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish military forces in recent days have killed 11 armed Kurdish separatist militants in separate raids in southeastern Turkey, authorities announced Monday. Army troops attacked hideouts of the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in the Hakkari province near Iraq and Iran and in the towns of Tunceli, Batman, and Bitlis in the southeast, the official Anatolian News Agency said. The agency was quoting from an official statement from the Diyarbakir provincial office in charge of coordinating the government struggle against the PKK.

### Yemen says lift Iraq embargo

SANAA (R) — Yemen on Monday called for lifting of United Nations sanctions against Iraq, saying Baghdad had implemented all Security Council resolutions related to its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "Just as our people rejected Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait, we reject the continuation of the embargo of Iraq after it has implemented and abided by U.N. resolutions," the official Yemeni newspaper Al Thawra said in an editorial.

### Israel, France expand double taxation treaty

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and France signed on Monday an expanded version of their 1963 treaty to stop double taxation, a spokeswoman for Israel's Foreign Ministry said. The spokeswoman said the most significant change concerns inheritance tax. French citizens who bequeath money to the Israeli government and non-profit organisations in Israel such as universities will not be taxed in France, she said.

### Lesotho asks for Egypt's support in bid for ADB presidency

CAIRO (AFP) — The Foreign Minister of Lesotho, K.A. Maope, said Monday he had asked for Egypt's support in his country's bid to assume the presidency of the African Development Bank (ADB). Mr. Maope, who arrived here Sunday for a three-day official visit, told the media that he had passed on the request to Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa during their meeting Monday. Morocco, Mozambique and Nigeria have also announced their candidacy for the ADB presidency.

### Argentina, Syria could open talks on reactor sale

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Argentina might open negotiations with Syria next week in Washington on the sale of a small nuclear reactor for medical research, diplomatic sources said here Monday. A diplomat said the discussions could begin on August 11 in the U.S. capital and then resume August 21 somewhere in Argentina, probably in Buenos Aires. The diplomat, who asked not to be named, said Argentina would ask for the green light from the United States given fears expressed by Israel over the transfer of nuclear technology to its Arab rivals. There was no official confirmation from the Argentine government of the dates for the talks. The U.S. State Department and the Argentine embassy in Washington also had no comment.

### Court studies claim Gonzalez linked to death squads

MADRID (AFP) — Spain's supreme court Monday started to examine a dossier of claims linking Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to death squads which targeted alleged Basque separatists, judicial sources said. According to reports leaked to Spanish newspapers, the dossier drawn up by investigating judge Baltasar Garzon contains "indications" that Gonzalez was involved with the death squads from the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups (GAL). It also has "indications" linking former interior minister Jose Barrionuevo and two other current Socialist deputies, Narcis Serra and Txiki Benegas, to the GAL units. The supreme court is the only court able to rule on issues involving members of the government or people normally covered by parliamentary immunity. If it decides the dossier is serious enough to warrant proceedings at such high level, it will ask for immunity to be lifted. However if the court rules there is not enough evidence, the case will be handed back to Garzon. Judicial sources said the key allegation was a claim by Ricardo Damborenea, a former Socialist Party official in the Basque region, who said Mr. Gonzalez not only "knew about" the GAL but was "not opposed" to their strategy. The GAL are blamed for the deaths of at least 22 suspected separatists in both northern Spain and southern France between 1983 and 1987. Mr. Damborenea himself was arrested in February and later released on bail on charges of kidnapping and attempted murder. The sources said holidays meant the court would probably not make a ruling before September. Garzon was meanwhile allowed to pursue inquiries "if there is an urgent need."

### Japan factory explosion injures 27

TOKYO (R) — About 27 people were injured in an explosion at a metal products factory north of Tokyo on Monday morning, a police spokesman said. "Most of those injured are believed to be factory workers, and the number could go up," he said. It was unclear how serious the injuries were, he said. The plant is owned by Mitsubishi Materials Corp, the police spokesman said. A spokesman for the firm said officials from the company's head office were unable to make contact with the factory in Saitama prefecture, 25km north of Tokyo. They said the explosion was believed to have taken place in a section that manufactures seamless pipes from alloys composed of copper, nickel and steel. It appears that production has stopped, he said. It is the firm's only facility manufacturing the product, he said. Aerial footage broadcast on television showed that part of the factory's roof had been blown away.

### 6 Egyptians drown while trying to save chicken

CAIRO (AP) — Six Egyptians drowned in southern Egypt Monday while trying to save a chicken that fell into a well. An 18-year-old farmer climbed into the water to save the chicken and drowned after apparently being trapped by an undercurrent in the well, which was about 2.5 metres wide. Two brothers and his sister, none of whom could swim well, went in one by one to help him, but also drowned, police said. The family's mother then got help from two elderly farmers, but they were apparently snaggled by the same undercurrent. All six — as well as the chicken, which survived — were later pulled out of the well, which was about 20 metres deep. The incident occurred in Nazlat Imara, a poor village in the southern province of Sohag, about 390 kilometres south of Cairo.







## Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

### Government pay raises contingent on rise in costs of living

Minister of Finance Bassem Jaradat said the government will increase civil servants' annual increments in case it is proven that there is a rise in living costs. The minister was quoted by Chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Finance Committee Hashem Al Dabbas as saying the government was doing a study on the cost of living and that the outcome of the study will determine its decision on the issue. Following a committee meeting with Mr. Jaradat and Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abul Ragheb, Mr. Dabbas said the two sides agreed to request the presence of the director general of the Statistics Department, which is doing the study, in an upcoming meeting of the committee. He said the committee discussed in its meeting draft laws on the income tax, the sales tax and investments. In view of the importance of the three laws to the investment climate in the Kingdom and the need to quickly approve them before the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit (MENA) which will be held in Amman in October, the committee decided to discuss the three laws as one group, Mr. Dabbas said. He added that the minister of finance told the committee that the income tax draft law will positively reflect on citizens. The minister told the committee that the draft law will provide for reducing income tax charged to people with low incomes, especially those with an annual income of JD 6,000. The minister also said the law would reduce the income tax charged to banks and companies from 30 per cent to 15 per cent (Al Rai).

By Glasberg

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### Asians remain top trade partners of Dubai

DUBAI (AFP) — Japan, China and other Asian countries have remained key trade partners of the Gulf emirate of Dubai despite competition from the West, an official report showed on Monday. Japan topped the list of exporters to Dubai, a position it has monopolised for several years despite the strong yen.

Its exports stood at 1.48 billion dirhams (\$403 million) in the first quarter of 1995, according to the report by the Dubai chamber of commerce and industry and the state statistics department, published in the daily Al Bayan.

The figure is lower than that during the first quarter of 1994, when exports stood at around 1.91 billion dirhams (\$520 million).

Japan's exports to Dubai and other Gulf states include mainly vehicles, electronics, home appliances and other manufactured products. Its exports to the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) dipped to around eight billion dirhams in 1994 from \$9 billion in 1993 due to the stronger yen.

High exports to Dubai, dubbed the Hong Kong of the Middle East, indicate strong demand in the whole Gulf as the emirate is the main re-export centre in the oil-rich region and handles more than 20 per cent of the Gulf's non-oil trade.

China, once negligible in the lucrative Gulf market, has become the second partner of Dubai, with exports of 1.2 billion dirhams (\$326 million) in the first quarter of 1995, according to the report.

China replaced the United States, which fell back to third place with exports to Dubai totalling around 1.12 billion dirhams (\$305 million).

The report showed exports by Japan, China and the United States accounted for nearly one third of Dubai's total imports of 12.1 billion dirhams (\$3.29 billion).

South Korea emerged as the sixth biggest exporter to Dubai, with sales of nearly 964 million dirhams (\$262.6 million). India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand and other Asian nations also boosted exports.

Iran, despite its island dispute with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), maintained its position as the top export market for Dubai. Re-exports stood at 985 million dirhams (\$268.4 million), accounting for around 33 per cent of Dubai's total re-exports in the first quarter of 1995.

Iran's exports to Dubai stood at 253 million dirhams (\$69 million) in the first quarter of 1995 compared with 214 million dirhams (\$58.3 million) in the same period of 1994.

### Banks closer to \$680 m Qatar gas project loan

DUBAI (R) — A \$680 million loan for the Qatar Liquefied Gas Company (Qatargas) will be ready for general syndication by late October, banking sources said on Monday.

The loan will be a major step forward for Qatar's \$6 billion Qatargas liquefied natural gas (LNG) project, the biggest single project finance scheme in the Middle East.

The loan for the "up-

stream" part of the project will allow Qatargas to install three offshore wellhead platforms and lay a 82 kilometre pipeline which will deliver the field's gas to an onshore liquefaction plant at Ras Laffan, 70 kilometres north of the Qatari capital Doha.

Japanese banks, led by the export-import bank of Japan (Jeximbank) and the ministry of trade and industry, signed a \$1.9 billion non recourse project loan to Qatargas in April to develop the "down-

stream" part of the project which mainly involves the construction of the liquefaction plant.

Earnings from Qatargas, which will start exporting to Japan in 1997 by exploiting the gas reserves of the massive offshore north field, is central to Qatar's economic future as it crude oil reserves mature.

Banking sources said that the terms of the \$680 million

loan are nearly all complete after talks in London over the last two months between the four main banks behind the issue — France's Credit Lyonnais Crtip, Pa and Societe Generale Sogn Pa, Britain's Barclays Bank Barc. L and Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank.

"By September the terms (of the loan) will be finalised which will allow a general syndication by late October," a banker who requested anonymity said.

Qatargas is a joint venture of state Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) which holds 65 per cent equity in the project and U.S. Mobil Corp. Mob. N, French Total SA Tote. Pa (each 10 per cent), Japan's Mitsui and Co. Ltd 8031.T and Marubeni Corp. 8002.T (each 7.5 per cent).

Total 15 responsible for managing the upstream work.

The upstream loan will be underwritten by a total of nine banks and is expected to receive guarantees from the French, UK, Italian, German and U.S. export credit agencies, bankers said.

Loan repayment period is over 10-12 years but the interest rate was not disclosed by bankers.

The upstream loan had been expected earlier this year but has been delayed because of complexities over repayment terms which will come from sales of oil condensates produced at Qatargas' 100 square kilometre north field concession rather than the sales of the finished LNG to Japan.

Condensate prices are more vulnerable to volatility in international spot markets and supply contracts are much shorter than those frequently seen in the LNG business.

Qatargas has already secured a four million tonnes a year LNG 25 year supply contract with Chubu Electric Power Company 9502.T and additional sales of two million tonnes year have also been agreed with seven other Japanese utilities.

Qatar owns the third largest reserves of gas in the world with the north field holding an estimated nine trillion cubic metres of gas.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDANI									
TELEPHONE: 607111 / 607119									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 31/07/1995									
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	INDEX NUMBER	CHANGE	INDEX NUMBER	CHANGE	INDEX NUMBER
ARAB BANK P.C.	220	46870	213.000	213.250					
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	7200	22328	4.490	4.490					
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2650	32846	1.280	1.280					
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1350	3400	2.830	2.830					
JORDAN KENAT BANK	400	1132	2.830	2.830					
JORDAN GULF BANK	12450	14209	1.130	1.130					
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1243	14535	1.130	1.130					
BUSINESS BANK	2000	7600	3.800	3.800					
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2500	5880	2.320	2.320					
MUTUAL SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	750	3810	5.080	5.080					
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	47200	49792	1.050	1.050					
AMMAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1097	5980	5.300	5.300					
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	4080	6675	1.650	1.650					
<b>BANKS SECTOR</b>	<b>106410</b>	<b>215828</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 176.95</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.09%</b>					
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	3100	8644	2.700	2.700					
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	<b>3200</b>	<b>8644</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 235.32</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.00%</b>					
JORDANIAN RECENTRE POWER	15280	24937	1.620	1.620					
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	3830	30780	8.000	8.000					
JORDAN FERTILISER INDUSTRIES	3600	10385	2.830	2.830					
ARAB NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	2650	5515	2.200	2.220					
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1700	1751	2.030	2.030					
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	250	295	1.180	1.180					
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRAI	1800	18905	9.850	9.950					
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSUMER HOTELS	1950	4352	2.200	2.200					
ARAB INVEST. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	3240	10360	3.200	3.200					
SARCA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	1200	1668	1.370	1.390					
<b>SERVICES SECTOR</b>	<b>38270</b>	<b>166903</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 127.04</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.34%</b>					
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	107	3371	31.080	31.500					
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	4101	4101	2.780	2.780					
JORDAN FERTILISER INDUSTRIES	10969	1510	2.990	3.020					
JORDAN FERTILISER INDUSTRIES	500	758	5.050	5.050					
THE ARAB POTASH	150	420	10.490	10.490					
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	420	4299	10.490	10.490					
ARAB PETROLEUM REFINERY	2660	13155	5.030	5.030					
ARAB PETROLEUM REFINERY	600	3520	5.830	5.830					
THE PUBLIC MINING	100	310	3.080	3.100					
SPINNING & WEAVING	300	600	2.010	2.000					
BAFTA TEXTILES	1100	2172	2.500	2.520					
DAR AL DINIA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1282	10079	7.800	7.900					
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	1500	1125	7.400	7.500					
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	100	510	5.000	5.100					
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	20600	9501	4.700	4.700					
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	150	210	1.430	1.400					
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	100	860	2.950	2.950					
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	100	1990	2.200	2.220					
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MACHINERY	700	430	6.200	6.200					
JORDAN SULPHUR-CHEMICALS	100	159	1.600	1.590					
INTERNATIONAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	1210	4015	3.270	3.350					
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	1650	3459	2.090	2.090					
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	4350	7414	1.700	1.710					
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	1592	2248	1.420	1.420					
ARAB INVEST. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	16927	36886	2.210	2.180					
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>68054</b>	<b>149836</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 129.59</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.39%</b>					
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>215934</b>	<b>481209</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 153.27</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.15%</b>					
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		122855							
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		103014							

### Refinery reports JD 4.9 m profit for '94

AMMAN (AP) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd. on Monday reported a profit of JD 4.95 million for last year, up JD 860,000 from 1993's profits.

Abdul Wahab Zoubi, the company's director general, said profit could have been even higher "if the government did not interfere to set the margin of profit and prices."

Mr. Zoubi told the Associated Press negotiations were underway with the government to "commercialise our operations."

The government owns 15 per cent of the shares and the private sector holds the rest of the company, Jordan's only refinery.

The government, which sets the prices of the company's oil products, guarantees the firm's minimum gains and determines the margin of profit distributed to shareholders.

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In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank				
U.S. Dollar in International Markets				
Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close	31/7/1995	31/7/1995
Sterling Pound	1.6010	1.6022**		
Deutsche Mark	1.5808	1.5817		
Swiss Franc	1.1488	1.1487**		
French Franc	4.1810	4.1837**		
Japanese Yen	88.11	88.20		
European Currency Unit	1.3460	1.3443**		

Source: Reuters. \*\* Approximate closing of New York (NYT)

European Central Bank Interest Rates Date: 31/7/1995

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.68	5.68	5.68	5.68
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.62	6.75	6.93
Deutsche Mark	4.31	4.31	4.25	4.37
Swiss Franc	2.37	2.50	2.62	2.81
French Franc	6.21	6.06	5.98	5.93
Japanese Yen	0.62	0.56	0.50	0.50
European Currency Unit	5.88	5.93	5.90	6.00

Source: Reuters. \*\* Approximate closing of New York (NYT)

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 31/7/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6990
Sterling Pound	1.1155	1.1211
Deutsche Mark	0.5035	0.5060
Swiss Franc	0.4055	0.4085
French Franc	0.1455	0.1467
Japanese Yen	0.7874	0.7913
Dutch Guilder	0.4494	0.4516
Swedish Krona	0.0459	0.0461
Italian Lira	0.0459	0.0461
Belgian Franc	0.0459	0.0461



# Agassi rallies from first-set loss to beat Sampras, win Canadian Open

MONTREAL (AP) — Andre Agassi won the latest duel with American rival Pete Sampras on Sunday, rallying after a first-set loss to win 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 in a battle of no. 1 vs. No. 2 in the Canadian Open final.

Agassi, 25, defended the title he won last year in Toronto and claimed his third Canadian Open Championship in four years. He is the first repeat winner since Ivan Lendl won three straight Canadian titles from 1987 to 1989.

"This (tournament) means a lot to me," said Agassi, who won the Canadian Open in Toronto last year and has taken three titles in four years.

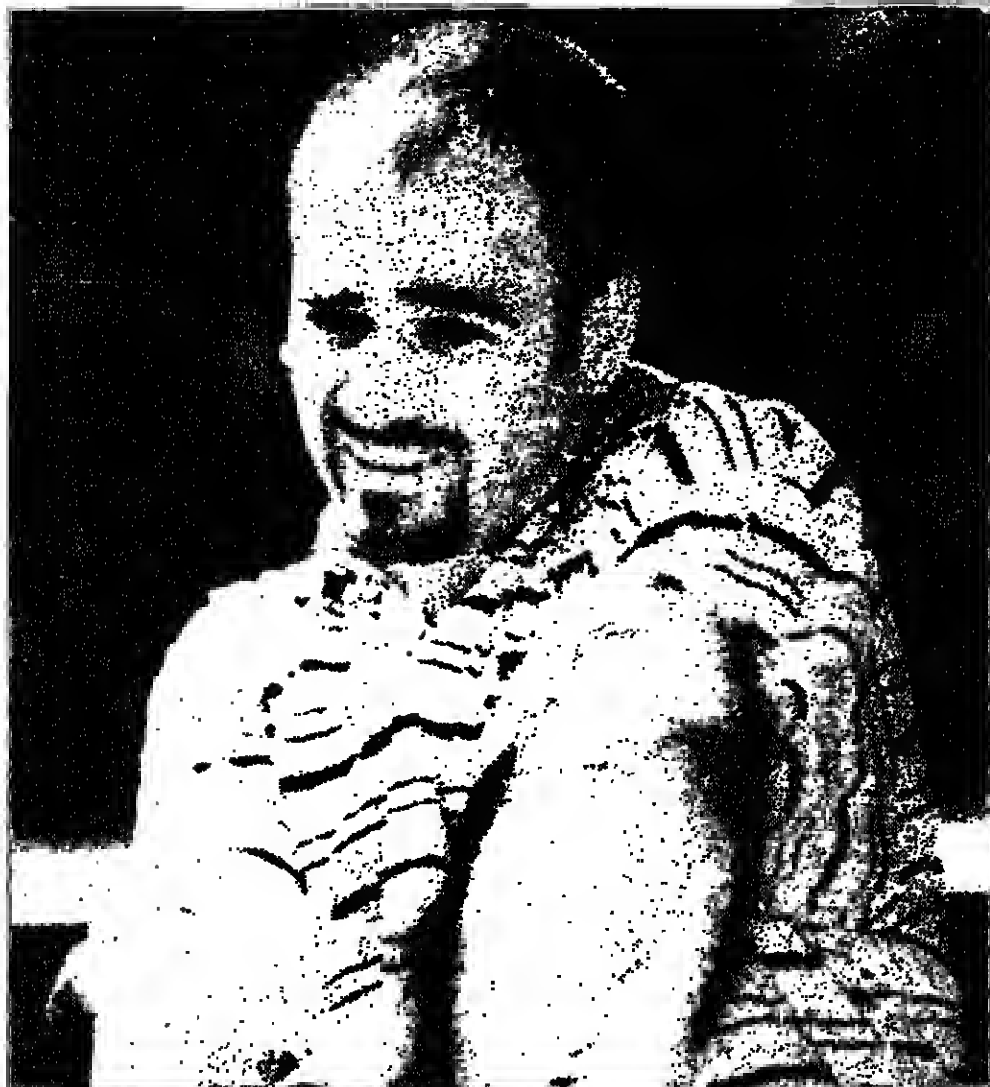
"This is where it started for me last year, it has special meaning for that. And, it's winning tournaments like this that make you No. 1."

The centre court and most of the rest of Jarry Stadium, a former U.S. Major League baseball park, is to be torn down and rebuilt into a bigger, better tennis facility for next year.

The Las Vegas native recorded his 400th career match victory, seventh among active players on the ATP Tour. He ended Sampras's 16-match winning streak, which included a third consecutive Wimbledon title on July 3. Sampras is eighth with 395 wins.

Sampras held the world No. 1 ranking for 82 weeks until he was ousted by Agassi, the reigning U.S. Open and Australian Open champion, on April 10.

It was Agassi's fifth tournament victory this year and



Andre Agassi

second in a row after a win last week in Washington.

Sampras, 23, started quickly on a hot, breezy day before a capacity crowd of 10,011.

He served two aces and a service winner to take the first game at love, then broke Agassi's service for a

4-2 lead that clinched the set. It was the first time Agassi dropped a set in five matches this week.

But Agassi raised his game a notch to the second, while Sampras began to struggle at the service line.

A turning point came in the final set, when Agassi

fought off three break points to hold service for a 4-1 lead.

"I was hitting some big, heavy shots on those break points," Agassi said. "I could see he was taking chances - you have to at that point. But if you let him make it 4-4, Pete's danger-

ous." The result evened the career matchup between the rivals at eight wins apiece, but Agassi has beaten Sampras in three of four meetings this year.

"After the first set, Andre raised his level and I went down a bit," Sampras said. "I had some chances, but I wasn't aggressive enough and he was dictating the play."

"His serve is basically a shot to get you moving his way. And once he gets you going side to side, he's got you."

Sampras was hardly downcast.

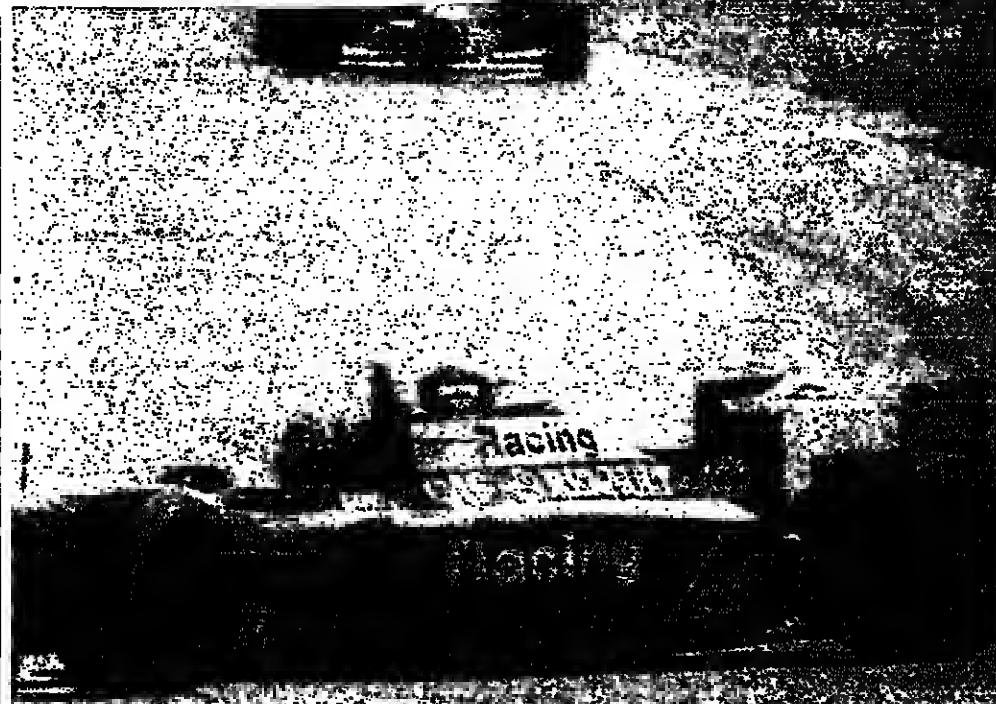
"It was good for me to get to the final, especially after that emotional win in Wimbledon. I'm disappointed. I'm here to win, but this is a good start to the summer (hardcourt season)."

Agassi leads Sampras by 1,016 ATP Tour points. Both are next scheduled to play the ATP Championship tournament in Cincinnati in two weeks, a key warmup for the U.S. Open beginning Aug. 29 in New York.

Agassi earned \$254,000 for the victory while Sampras took home \$133,800.

In the doubles final, the fourth-seeded Russian duo of Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovskiy scored a quick 6-2, 6-2 win over Brian MacPhie of the United States and Sandon Stolle of Australia.

The tournament set a Canadian Open attendance record of 119,927 for the week, eclipsing the previous mark of 118,095 set in 1987 in Montreal.



Briton Damon Hill spins whilst in the lead prior to leaving the track during Sunday's German Formula-One Grand Prix in Hockenheim. Behind is Michael Schumacher (AFP Photo)

## Schumacher basks in glory as Hill spins out

HOCKENHEIM, Germany (AP) — Damon Hill will have to drive better if he is to make a credible challenge for Michael Schumacher's Formula One title.

After spinning out to his Williams-Renault barely one lap into the German Grand Prix Sunday, Hill failed to finish his second race in a row.

Schumacher took full advantage of Hill's mistake to win the race in his Benetton-Renault and open a 21-point lead, with eight races left in the 17-event Grand Prix season.

With Hill starting from pole position and Schumacher right behind him, Sunday's race had all the makings of an epic thriller.

changed down a gear for the bend, then suddenly the back end went away from me. I was pushing hard, trying to pull out an advantage but I must say I've been around that corner enough times this weekend to know whether I'm within the limit or not.

"To me it felt as if the rear brakes came on a bit harder than they had done before - I don't really know, but that is what it felt like to me and it caught me out."

"This is pretty devastating for my championship hopes," Hill said.

In five pole starts this season, Hill has not won a race. The Briton has two wins, both of them coming from behind.

At the British Grand Prix in Silverstone two weeks ago, Hill tried to overtake Schumacher from the inside in a questionable manoeuvre, rammed the German and took both drivers out of the race.

The collision cooled already frigid relations between the two drivers. Schumacher clinched last season's world title by one point over Hill, after he crashed into Hill's car in the last race in Australia.

"I wasn't overdoing it. I

With his fifth victory of the season, Schumacher also made some history by becoming the first German driver to win a German Grand Prix.

Schumacher, 26, posted a time of one hour, 22 minutes, 56.043 seconds for the 45-lap race on the 6.823-kilometre circuit as he cruised home.

David Coulthard, in the second Williams-Renault, finished second, 5.988 seconds behind Schumacher. Gerhard Berger, the Austrian driving a Ferrari who won here last year, was third, one minute, 8.097 seconds behind.

The gap between Schumacher and Berger would have been greater had Schumacher not made two pit stops for Coulthard's one.

Schumacher said he was amazed when he saw Hill spin out. "I thought the first corner could be quite slippery and I braked early. There must have been a lot of oil and dust."

"I saw Damon slide sideways and hit the wall and I couldn't believe it," Schumacher said.

## After four years in prison, Mike Tyson felt discouraged in first sparring session

LAS VEGAS (AP) — His muscles were sore, his timing was off.

Mike Tyson was finding out what a legions of past fighters had discovered — physical shape is not fighting shape.

"Boxers who visited me (in prison) told me that it comes back," Tyson said in an interview. "And as soon as I hit the bag, it came right back. I was hitting the bag like the champion of the world, but boxing was something different."

Recalling his first sparring session for his Aug. 19 fight against Peter McNeeley at the MGM Grand Casino-Hotel in Las Vegas, his first in more than four years, Tyson said, "I was very depressed. I looked like crap, I was very discouraged."

He said he was reminded of an incident he read about in the life of Willie Ritchie, a lightweight champion in 1912-13.

It seems Ritchie fought an eight-round no-decision bout against a tough customer and had taken a beating. When Ritchie found out he was to have a rematch in two weeks he was not pleased, but he prepared himself anyway.

On the day of the fight, Ritchie's opponent did not show. It seemed he had taken a beating, too, and wanted no more of Ritchie.

"The moral of the story is you've just got to go through with things," Tyson said.

The word now is that Tyson has been knocking down sparring partners with regularity.

"That's the name of the game, isn't it?" Tyson said, with a smile.

The word, however, was

suspect in some quarters because it came from John Horne and Rory Holloway, Tyson's managers.

Since beginning training after his release from prison March 25, Tyson's workouts have been closed.

Rumors had it that Tyson was out of shape, that his hands were hurting.

Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, attended a workout last Monday, watched Tyson spar five rounds, and liked what he saw.

"He looked very big, very strong," Ratner said. "I thought he looked very sharp, not at all like he hadn't fought in four years. It looks like he's ready to fight right now. I was very impressed."

Those involved in the promotion said the reason for the closed workout is purely financial.

"The idea is you want more drama so people are curious what he looks like," said Mike Marley, a spokesman for promoter Don King.

"You see him fight when you pay your pesos."

"The media will be allowed to watch Tyson work out Wednesday at Hal Miller's Golden Gloves Gym."

Tyson last fought on June 28, 1991, against Donovan "Razor" Ruddock. While he won on points over 12 rounds, he didn't appear to be the iron Mike who became a champion at age 20 and dominated the sport until he was upset on a 10th round knockout by James "Buster" Douglas on Feb. 11, 1990.

Critics suggest that Tyson began slipping as a fighter after his 93-second knockout of Michael Spinks on June 27, 1988.

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### Tennis top rankings

Paris (AFP) — ATP tennis rankings published on Monday:

1. Andre Agassi - 5161 pts
2. Pete Sampras - 4145
3. Thomas Muster - 3667
4. Boris Becker - 3598
5. Michael Chang - 3064
6. Kafelnikov - 2676

7. Goran Ivanisevic - 2660
8. Wayne Ferreira - 2252
9. Michael Stich - 2232
10. Sergi Bruguera - 2123
11. Marc Rosset - 2068
12. Magnus Larsson - 1840

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# Olajuwon and O'Neal named to head 1996 U.S. Olympic squad

NEW YORK (AP) - Lenny Wilkens got his "Dream Team" on Sunday, and he wants this squad to be as distinctive as the one that rolled to the gold medal in Barcelona in 1992.

An assistant coach of the original Dream Team, Wilkens sidesteps the subject of which might be the better squad — the original with Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan or the new one with Hakeem Olajuwon and Shaquille O'Neal.

"I'm a little partial to the first team," Wilkens said Sunday. "I don't think you'll see a team like that again. Each team will make its mark. We're going to go out there and be U.S. and not somebody else. We're not going to try to compete with what that team did."

USA Basketball made most of the team roster official Sunday, announcing a squad that includes four players from the 1992 team and one naturalized U.S. citizen.

Named to the first 10 of 12 spots were: Orlando guard Anfernee Hardaway, Detroit forward Grant Hill, Utah forward Karl Malone, Indiana guard Reggie Miller, Houston centre Hakeem Olajuwon, Orlando centre Shaquille O'Neal, Chicago forward Scottie Pippen, San Antonio centre David Robinson, Milwaukee for-

ward Glenn Robinson and Utah guard John Stockton.

Malone, Pippen and Stockton were on the original dream team, as was Robinson, who also won a bronze medal in the 1988 games, the last all-collegian national team.

The other two roster spots will be filled next year, probably in the spring.

One of them could be given to Magic Johnson, who recently announced he would not come out of retirement and rejoin the Los Angeles Lakers. Johnson has expressed a desire to play in the Olympics a second time.

The announcement Sunday came on a nationally televised broadcast, and represented a welcome change of pace for the NBA, which has locked out its players and been unable to reach a labour agreement with the players' union.

The selection of this Olympic team was largely without the controversy that surrounded the makeup of the 1992 team, when Detroit's Isiah Thomas was not included and Michael Jordan had to be persuaded to take part.

This time, Michael Jordan said early on he didn't want to be considered for a spot, and there were no glaring omissions. Passed over were three members of the world

championship team, Charlotte's Larry Johnson, New Jersey's Derrick Coleman and Seattle's Shawn Kemp.

Following last year's world championships in Toronto, USA Basketball officials quietly made it known they were displeased with the unsportsmanlike and unseemly behavior by some players of the gold medal team, and those players wouldn't be invited to Atlanta.

Wilkins may not want to make any comparisons, but that does not mean his players will follow suit.

"This Dream Team could take on all the other dream teams put together," said O'Neal, a member of the 1994 U.S. world championship team, known as Dream Team II.

"This team is really deep, more so even than Dream Team II," Miller said. "We are really strong in the centre position, with Hakeem, David and Shaq. We have two of the greatest point guards in Penny and Stockton, and we have the most talented three (small forward) in the game today in Scottie Pippen."

Olajuwon was named to the team after waging a long campaign with FIBA to be declared eligible to compete for his adopted country.



Houston Rockets' star Hakeem Olajuwon

## IAAF appears certain to halve 4-year doping ban

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) - The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) looks certain this week to halve its four-year ban for serious doping offences after a series of challenges in the civil courts.

The IAAF council has backed a proposal to be presented to its congress starting on Tuesday calling for a two-year ban for first offenders in line with International Olympic Committee (IOC) moves to harmonise drugs penalties across all sports.

Recently the IAAF has found itself fighting doping cases in the civil courts, most notably in much-publicised scandals involving German sprinter Katrin Krabbe and American 400 metres world record holder Butch Reynolds.

"Some delegates believe that the IAAF has to be responsible and realistic in its recommendations and have enforceable rules," IAAF General Secretary Istvan Gyulai said.

"Being passionate about doping is one thing. But some say there is no point in having law suits that are des-

tined to be lost and rules that are impossible to enforce."

The IAAF is keen to emphasise that a minimum two-year ban brings athletics in line with other sports but officials admit legal problems have played a major role.

Some of the IAAF's medical experts have consistently opposed the four-year ban and believe expanding out-of-competition testing is a more effective way of catching cheats.

German officials, battle-hardened by two doping scandals involving former double world sprint champion Krabbe in 1992, put a proposal to the congress in Stuttgart two years ago to reduce the penalties because they were not practical. The congress rejected the idea.

The mood of the debate is likely to be less passionate and more practical in Gothenburg, especially in view of the council's support of the idea which has been officially proposed by Russia.

Some countries, such as Britain, were fierce opponents of change last time. Gyulai said: "It would be

left to the discretion of a country such as Britain if they wanted to maintain the four years. It could even be longer. There is no upper limit."

IAAF officials admit, however, that some countries might find it hard to ban their athletes from competing for four years while doping offenders from other nations were returning to action after two years.

They also concede that an athlete banned for four years is less likely to return to competition than one who is out of the sport for just two seasons.

The congress will also discuss a German proposal to force athletes to prove they have undergone at least two out-of-competition drug tests in the build-up to major championships before they are allowed to compete.

The IAAF is keen to make sure the proposal is enforceable in all countries. Athletes from the less developed world could be in danger of missing championships, simply because their country does not have an efficient testing programme.

## One dead, dozens injured at Jakarta soccer match

JAKARTA (AFP) - Police said Monday that one man died during the Dunhill soccer final here Sunday night, while press reports blamed dozens more injuries on stone-throwing.

Sutaryono, 63, from Bandung, West Java, already had a heart condition, said police sergeant Sutrisno, refusing to comment on newspaper reports that the man was trampled on his way out of the

match. "He died on the way to the hospital," the officer from the Tanah Abang police station told AFP.

The daily Bisnis Indonesia also reported that dozens were injured due to stone-throwing between supporters during a match watched by a crowd of 120,000.

Police and security officers at the Senayan Stadium refused to confirm the number of people injured.

One of the stadium's gates burned down before the match in a fire caused by cigarette butts, a stadium security officer said.

The Persib team from Bandung beat the Petrokimia Putra team from Gresik, East Java, with the game's only goal, 76 minutes into the game and will represent Indonesia in the Asia Championship Cup in Bangkok in September.

## English clubs' financial health declines

LONDON (R) - The financial health of English soccer clubs is in decline, even though they are generating record turnover.

The accounting firm Touche Ross said its annual survey of football club accounts showed that while professional clubs' turnover rose 20 per cent to £387 million (\$618.3 million) in 1993/94, the clubs generated

profit of only £12,000 (\$19,170).

Most profits are being generated by Premier League sides, with clubs in lower divisions posting average losses of £416,000 (\$664,600) — up from average losses of £379,000 (\$605,500) in 1992/93.

"The gap between the top clubs and those in the lower divisions is getting wider,"

said Gerry Boon, chairman of the Touche Ross football industry team.

Only 39 per cent of all clubs posted operating profits in 1993/94, down from 41 per cent the previous year.

"The costs of running a football club have increased significantly, due principally

to a substantial increase in players' wages and salaries," said Boon.

Players' wages and salaries totalled £140 million (\$223.7 million) in 1993/94, swallowing 55 per cent of the total turnover of all professional clubs.

Players' earnings rose 19 per cent in 1993/94. Transfer fees rose to a record £92

million (\$147 million) from £73 million (\$116.6 million) the previous season.

Higher wages and salaries in the Premier League are having a "knock-off effect" throughout the game, Boon said. But unless clubs in the lower divisions greatly develop their off-field activities they may be unable to support the wages and salaries.



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### Tennis 10 rankings

(AFP) - ATP rankings published on 1/8/95

1. Andre Agassi - 510
2. Pete Sampras - 410
3. Thomas Muster - 390
4. Boris Becker - 380
5. Michael Chang - 370
6. Kafelnikov - 260

7. Goran Ivanisevic - 250
8. Wayne Ferreira - 240
9. Michael Stich - 230
10. Sergi Bruguera - 220
11. Marc Rosset - 210
12. Magnus Larsson - 200

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# Syria says it will not be pressured into deal with Israel

## Rabin doubts agreement could be reached before November elections

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria on Monday criticised Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for casting doubt on prospects for peace before elections in Israel in 1996.

Meanwhile, Syria's Army Chief Lientenant-General Hikmat Shihabi was quoted as saying Damascus could not be pressured into signing a peace accord with Israel which would harm its sovereignty.

A Syrian official said Mr. Rabin's remarks doubting a peace deal with Syria before Israeli elections showed that he has not yet taken a decision to make peace.

"Rabin's remarks were based on the knowledge of his own position refusing to meet the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace," the official told Reuters.

"Rabin has not yet taken a decision to make a peace and that is why he is doubting an early agreement," he said.

"As for us in Syria we said peace could be achieved in days if Israel agrees to full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and to implement balanced and equal security

arrangements which would ensure security and peace to all," the official added.

Mr. Rabin told his ministers on Sunday that he doubted a peace deal could be reached with Syria before elections in Israel due by November 1996.

"He said he had serious doubts over the chance of reaching an agreement with the Syrians before the elections," Mr. Rabin's spokeswoman Aliza Goren told Reuters.

Mr. Rabin made the remarks at the weekly cabinet meeting during a discussion on cuts in the 1996 state budget.

He said implementing peace deals with Israel's Arab neighbours, including the PLO, would require extra funds but no agreement with Syria was expected.

Mr. Rabin, who is also

defence minister, supported the budget cuts which the cabinet approved.

Israel's planned troop redeployment in the West Bank, part of its 1993 peace deal with the PLO, is expected to cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

The official Al Baath newspaper quoted Gen. Shihabi as saying in an interview to mark the country's Army Day that peace in the region could never be achieved without Syria.

He said Damascus would not submit to the "pressure of time" to rush for solutions "which might harm its sovereignty or dignity."

"Syria will not fall at any stage under the pressure of haste, the running out of time or elections which might be held here or there," he said.

"If Israel doesn't respond to the requirements of peace

it will be difficult to predict a progress in the peace process or the establishment of a peace capable of survival in this region," Gen. Shihabi said.

Syria and Israel have reached no agreement in about four years of sporadic peace negotiations.

The talks are stalled over the fate of the Golan Heights, a strategic plateau Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war, security arrangements and future ties.

Gen. Shihabi and his Israeli opposite number Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak discussed during talks in Washington in June security arrangements which would back up a proposed Israeli withdrawal from the Golan but they reached no agreement.

The arrangements include the establishment of early

warning systems, definition of the demilitarised zones and the deployment of peace-keeping troops.

Syrian officials have said Damascus had strongly refused Israeli demands for the setting of a ground Israeli early warning station on the Golan and proposed aerial surveillance instead.

They said Damascus had refused to send its military experts back to Washington until Israel lifts its demand for the ground station and until an agreement on any item on the agenda of the talks is reached.

"Israel placed obstacles on the way of the military talks, made up priorities and changed the priorities. As long as Israel maintains this policy of delusion, progress in the peace process would be impossible," Gen. Shihabi said.

But Mr. Peres said it would not be "useful to present Syria with an ultimatum."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa on Sunday ruled out a meeting of Syrian

and Israeli military experts until the two countries agree in principle on security arrangements for the Golan Heights.

"Meetings between military experts would be useless because they cannot negotiate without an agreement on security measures," he said in Damascus.

Mr. Sharaa rejected Israeli accusations that Syria was to blame for the deadlock in peace talks because of its reluctance to send military experts to Washington.

"These are false accusations, because we are ready to send experts if we reach an accord on at least one part of the security arrangements, such as the warning stations," he said.

The foreign minister added there was no word of a possible new regional shuttle by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to enax Israel and Syria back to the negotiating table.

Mr. Christopher said on July 16 in Damascus that talks between the two countries would resume "within a week or two" at the ambassadorial level.

## Iraq urge U.N. to finish disarmament mission by August

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq on Monday urged the U.N. Disarmament Commission to finish its work by the end of August and warned that any delay would be seen as an unacceptable ploy to extend the economic sanctions.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarmament Iraq, is due in Baghdad on Friday to determine whether Iraq has fulfilled a promise to provide a full and final report on its germ warfare programme.

"The accord with Mr. Ekeus called for verification of information provided by Iraq on its biological weapons not to exceed the end of August, the official Jomhuriya newspaper said.

"Any delay would be unjustified, unacceptable and would mean UNSCOM's failure," the newspaper said.

"UNSCOM has started to insinuate that its work will take more time and would extend into September. It's a manoeuvre encouraged by the United States to delay the lifting of the embargo," it said.

"UNSCOM's mission could be completed even before the end of August if there existed good will and there were no outside political interference," the newspaper said.

Iraq on July 19 gave UNSCOM an ultimatum to finish its work by the end of August and recommend a lifting of the embargo or face the with-

drawal of Iraq's cooperation. Mr. Ekeus has said the germ warfare issue is the only big obstacle to lifting the sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Baghdad said Saturday it would cooperate fully with Mr. Ekeus.

Under U.N. resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf war to liberate Kuwait, Iraq must eliminate its weapons of mass destruction and comply with long-term arms monitoring before the oil embargo can be lifted.

The United States has taken a headline, demanding Iraq comply also with non-weapons resolutions on human rights and Kuwaiti prisoners.

SETTLERS DRAGGED OUT: Israeli soldiers Monday battle with settlers, who are trying to dismantle a wooden hut, as they are being removed from a hill-top next to the Palestinian village of Al Khader on the West Bank. Israeli security forces cleared hundreds of settlers from a hill named "Givat Hadagen" after they began to build an illegal colony (AFP photo)



## Kurds accept U.S. mediation

NICOSIA (AFP) — The two main feuding Kurdish factions in northern Iraq have accepted a U.S. plan for peace talks next week in Lisbon, Kurdish officials said Monday.

"The Americans suggested the two parties meet in Lisbon for peace talks," Briska Shaways, a senior official of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), told AFP by telephone from northern Iraq.

"We accepted to demonstrate our goodwill and will send a delegation consisting of members of our political bureau," he said.

The rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) accepted the U.S. offer for talks last week.

The meeting is scheduled for August 9 through August 11 in the Portuguese capital, and would be the first between the two sides' political bureaus in seven months.

The two groups, which have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the 1991 Gulf war, are locked in a bitter struggle for power and over tax revenue.

More than 2,000 people have been killed since the fighting erupted in May 1994, according to Kurdish sources.

## Egypt to try 29 militants

CAIRO (R) — A Cairo state security court will try 29 suspected Muslim militants next week on charges of killing three policemen and wounding six in the southern province of Aswan in 1993, court sources said on Monday.

The trial of the accused, five of whom are on the run, will open on Saturday, they said.

The men are also accused of joining an illegal group that aims to overthrow the government by accusing the president of heresy and plotting to assassinate public figures.

The sources said the militants belong to Egypt's largest armed Islamic group, Al Gamaa Al Islamiyyah (Islamic Group), which has been fighting a low-level guerrilla against police in southern provinces for the past three years.

## Iraqi opposition questions credibility of amnesty

DUBAI (AFP) — Iraqi opposition members on Monday warned against responding to an amnesty announced by President Saddam Hussein's government for those charged with political crimes.

"What he (Saddam) announced is worthless. He has already announced a dozen amnesties without respecting them since 1979," when he became president of Iraq, according to Qassem Ghali, an opposition member living in London.

"All those who believed his promises ended up regretting it," Mr. Ghali, who works for the Iraqi National Congress newspaper Al Mutamar, told AFP by telephone.

He said President Saddam has since 1991 sent envoys to persuade exiled opponents to return to Iraq.

"Two exiled opposition members in Algeria, Khalil Jazairi and Khaled Al Salam, believed him. They returned in 1992, following an official accord signed by the Iraqi ambassador in Algiers," he said.

"The first was imprisoned and executed as soon as he arrived in Baghdad and the second was able to flee towards the northern areas"

under Kurdish control, Dr. Ghali charged. "This is just one example among dozens."

The Iraqi government announced an amnesty Sunday, calling for the release of prisoners convicted for political reasons and for a stop to procedures against "fugitives" in and outside the country.

The amnesty decree said the decision was dictated by the "humane and national considerations expressed by President Saddam in a recent speech, the official Iraqi news agency said.

Those wanted for political crimes have a month to turn themselves in if they are inside the country and two months if they are residing elsewhere, under the amnesty.

The decree also calls for the restitution of property taken from those benefiting from the amnesty.

The ruling Revolutionary Command Council decided on July 22 to offer amnesty to army deserters, who faced having their ear cut off. It also changed the death sentence to life imprisonment and authorised the release in some cases of prisoners convicted of murder.

## Sudan to carry out census of refugees

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan is to count the number of refugees from neighbouring countries it is hosting in a bid to clear up disputes with the United Nations and aid organisations over the figure, Omdurman state radio reported on Monday.

The radio said the cabinet ordered the census in a meeting on Sunday chaired by President Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

The number is a matter of dispute between Sudanese authorities and the U.N., voluntary agencies and the countries of origin.

Interior Minister Brigadier Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohamed Khair told the cabinet Sudan had hosted more than one million refugees from other African countries over the past three decades.

Mr. Khair said 20 per cent of all African refugees, or the equivalent of three per cent of the world refugee population, were in Sudan, Africa's largest country in area but one of its most impoverished. He called on the international

community to increase aid to the refugees.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) does not believe the number in Sudan is so high but it has not come up with an alternative figure.

Sudan says there are about 500,000 Eritrean and 300,000 Ethiopian refugees on its territory but its two neighbours say Sudan has exaggerated the figures.

Some aid agencies have accused Sudan of raising the number as a ploy to get more international aid.

Sudan has dismissed the charge and says the refugees have damaged the environment in eastern Sudan, where most of their camps are.

Sudan has complained of lack of aid for the refugees. A decade ago it used to receive about \$40 million a year but now gets just over \$9 million.

The UNHCR puts the decline down to the return home of many refugees and the increase in the number of refugees worldwide, which has put a strain on donors.

## Search for Kashmir hostages is expanded

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — The government Monday expanded its search for five Western hostages, fearing that Kashmiri militants have moved them away from the area of the kidnappings.

That Al Faran separatist group hasn't issued a statement for a week, prompting one state government official to say Monday that "the silence is indeed baffling."

Al Faran kidnapped an American, two Britons, a German and a Norwegian around July 4 in the Pahalgam region of Kashmir, and it is demanding the release of 21 jailed Kashmiri militants.

"Our troops have fairly covered the Pahalgam area, but there is no sign of them (kidnappers)," said the official, who cannot be identified under standing briefing regulations in Srinagar, the centre of the 5-year-old Muslim rebellion in Kashmir.

Government officials attribute the lack of communication to monsoon floods that had covered the road between Srinagar and Pahalgam, a tourist resort town south of Srinagar.

On Tuesday, a 10-day Hindu pilgrimage begins in the Pahalgam area to a Himalayan mountain cave, and tens of thousands of Indian troops have been deployed to protect the pilgrims.

"It is quite likely that the kidnappers have managed to flee from the area to avoid being detected by our troops," said another Jammu-Kashmir state government official.

The Indian government has refused to release the 21 jailed militants that Al Faran has identified.

On Sunday, another Kashmiri separatist group, Hizbul Mujahadeen, demanded that Al Faran also demand the release of Ramzi Yousef, who is accused of masterminding the Feb. 26, 1993, World Trade Centre bombing in New York. Mr. Yousef was arrested this year in Islamabad, Pakistan's capital, and is jailed in New York.

Since late 1989, Muslim militants have been fighting for the independence of Jammu-Kashmir, the only state in mostly Hindu India with a Muslim majority. About 13,000 people have died.

## Hiroshima mayor supports 'whatever means' to stop French nuclear tests

TOKYO (AFP) — Takashi Hiraoka, the mayor of the atomic-bombed city of Hiroshima, pledged Monday to support the boycott of French products or any other means to stop France's plan to resume nuclear testing in September.

"We should use whatever means to stop France from conducting nuclear tests," Mr. Hiraoka told a news conference in Tokyo.

He said the French decision, along with China's nuclear testing in May, was particularly regrettable as it came at "an important juncture" when the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was extended this year.

"Such moves will undermine our faith in countries with nuclear weapons and shake up the reliability of a new NPT framework," Mr. Hiraoka said.

The mayor also said Hiroshima and nine other member cities of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity had sent a letter of protest to the French government, demanding a halt to the plan.

The nine cities are Nagasa-

ki, another Japanese city devastated by a U.S. atomic bomb in the closing days of World War II. Berlin and Hannover of Germany, Como of Italy, Lukasa of Zambia, the U.S. city of Sacramento, Canada's Vancouver, Volgograd of Russia and Wollongong of Australia.

Hiroshima, which will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. bombing next Sunday, has campaigned for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The bombing, which killed an estimated 140,000 in the city, was "cruel" especially because people are suffering from the effects of radioactivity even 50 years after, Mr. Hiraoka said.

In Brunei, Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Monday while Australia deplores China's nuclear tests, it considers the proposed French tests more harmful because of their environmental impact.

"I don't think the two situations are strictly comparable," he said.

Mr. Evans said he will, however, raise the issue of China's nuclear tests when he meets with Chinese Foreign

Minister Qian Qichen.

"I want to make it clear that we continue to deplore the Chinese testing programme," he said.

Mr. Evans and Mr. Qian are in Brunei for the region's biggest security forum Tuesday, among 19 countries and the European Union. Participants include U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Mr. Evans told reporters the Chinese, unlike the French, have not pledged a moratorium on nuclear tests and do not threaten the environment. Besides, the Chinese conduct their tests in their own backyard.

He was responding to a question whether Australia would consider imposing sanctions on China for its nuclear tests.

Australia imposed limited defence sanctions, including cancelling a defence contract, against France after it recently announced plans to resume nuclear testing in French Polynesia in the South Pacific. Australia, New Zealand and small Pacific nations have protested strongly, saying the tests are harmful to the environment.

## Seoul arrests widow for N. Korea trip

SEOUL (R) — The widow of one of South Korea's most prominent dissidents was arrested Monday for an unauthorised trip to communist North Korea despite threats from Pyongyang that her arrest would hamper relations between the two Koreas.

"We had an arrest warrant for her, and she was arrested right after she crossed over to the Southern side," said a spokesman at the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP).

"She was arrested for breaking the country's national security law which bans unauthorised trips to the North."

He said Park Young-Gil was admitted to the National Police Hospital to undergo a physical checkup before being questioned.

The Stalinist North has made several threats to the South before Mr. Park's return that her arrest would lead to a "more acute phase of confrontation" between the two Koreas.

The threats came as South Korea prepared a fresh initiative aimed at reopening dialogue between the two Ko-

reans, which are still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean War.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said the North would "keep tabs on their (South Korea's) crimes in the name of the whole nation and of the ethics and morality and make them pay a hundred-fold, a thousandfold for it."

During a farewell gathering for Mrs. Park, chairman of the Korean Religious Association Jang Jae-Chol, also warned the South.

"If the South Korean authorities arrest Pak Young-Gil as they persecuted Rev. Moon when he returned from the visit to Pyongyang, it will invite Hitler denunciation from all the fellow countrymen and they will have to be held wholly responsible for the possible grave consequences," he said.

Mrs. Park's husband Moon Ik-Hwan served four years in jail after he illegally visited Pyongyang in 1989.

Rev. Moon, a Protestant pastor, died in January 1994 after a decades-old personal crusade for full democracy and Korean unification.

He came under the media

spotlight when he met Kim Il-Sung during his visit to try to end what he called the tragedy of Korea's division at the end of World War II.

The 75-year-old Mrs. Park visited North Korea on June 28 at the invitation of North Korean authorities to mark the first anniversary of "great leader" Kim Il-Sung's death on July 8, 1994.

KCNA, monitored in Tokyo, said Mrs. Park visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace in Pyongyang where Mr. Kim's body lies in state for public view.

During her stay in Pyongyang, Mrs. Park also met North Korea's new leader Kim Jong-Il during a memorial ceremony for his late father Kim Il-Sung.

An official at the Unification Ministry said Mrs. Park's arrest would give the North a reason to "pick a fight" with the South.

"We will have to wait and see whether the North's threats are real or not. But it gives them a reason to talk about this for a while, and hopefully it will die away," the official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters by telephone.

## Column 80000

### Marcos Jr gets 9 years' jail for tax evasion

MANILA (R) — The only son of late President Ferdinand Marcos was sentenced to nine years' jail Monday for evading taxes of 8,500 pesos (\$331) in the latest blow to a family that once ruled the Philippines like a fiefdom.

A suburban Quezon City court found the 38-year-old former congressman guilty of tax evasion and ordered his immediate arrest after he failed to appear for the sentencing. His bail 200,000 pesos (\$7,800) bond was also cancelled. Court appeals said there will be an appeal against the decision. A family spokeswoman said Marcos Jr was abroad. His mother, former first lady Imelda Marcos, who is facing a 16-year jail term for alleged corruption, would not make any comment. Marcos Jr was convicted on four counts of failure to pay taxes and four counts of failing to declare his income from 1982 to 1985 when he was governor of northern Ilocos Norte province while his father was still in power. The unpaid taxes involved a total 8,500 pesos (\$331), including 107 pesos (\$4) for 1982. "It was not out of sheer ignorance, or innocence or neglect that he failed to (pay the taxes)," Judge Benedicto Ulep said when handing down his ruling.

"The length of time that he failed to do so indicates that his omission was wilful, intentional and deliberate," he said. Mr. Marcos, a former congressman, failed to win a Senate seat in last May's congressional election.

The two leaders on "ways to improve the atmosphere between and consolidate action through League," Egyptian Minister Safi said.

King Hussein le man shortly after Today the King Qatari on a similar solidify Arab relations will meet the Sheikh Hamad Bin Al Thani.

King Hussein Mubarak also discussed Middle East peace and especially

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Ministers embark on golf diplomacy

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (AFP) — Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans was up early Monday to embark on some golf diplomacy with ASEAN countr

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The organisation regularly takes to the golf course for informal talks. Peppered with questions by reporters as he prepared to tee off, Mr. Evans asked for space, telling journalists to "take it easy."

Also at the tee were foreign ministers Ali Alatas of Indonesia, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia, Domingo Siazon of the Philippines, S. Jayakumar of Singapore and Kasem Kasemsri of Thailand.

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Volume 19

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"We are workin the Arab ranks an if God wishes, th soon be united," M ak told reporters.

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